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MOM...GUESS WHAT!
NEWSPAPER
Serving The Community Since 1978 Issue #177 September 1, 1991

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Night Of Pride

THE NIGHT OF PRIDE ATTRACTS BODYBUILDERS FROM ACROSS THE NATION! Male and female bodybuilders from coast to coast will participate in Night of Pride, North America's first AAU-sanctioned gay/lesbian bodybuilding championship, planned in Dallas on September 21. Chris Dickerson, former title holder of Mr. America, Mr. Universe and Mr. Olympia, will be guest poser at the contest. VIP sponsorships will cost $150. Reserved seating tickets are $15, $20 and $25. Pre-judging show general admission tickets are $10. Call 214-520-0019.▼

Housing Protection Dropped From AB101!

by Michael R. Gorman
MGW EDITOR

The world of politics is often like Alice's Wonderland; things are not always what they seem. The gay rights bill that everyone thought was going to sail through the state legislature is no longer the same bill, and the sailing speed has been less than record-breaking. The narrow margin by which AB101 (by Assemblyman Terry Friedman, D-Los Angeles) passed the Assembly was dependant upon bipartisan support. That support was tenuous, and the Republican Caucus has made it clear, according to sources working to pass the bill, that the support in the Assembly (which will have to concur with the Senate version of the bill) may erode if the housing provisions remain in the bill. According to Laurie McBride, executive director of the Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality, "We want bipartisan support for this bill. The major aspect of the bill that the conservative Republicans have continually pointed out as a problem are the housing provisions."

On Monday, August 26, Friedman requested that several amendments be added to the bill. One amendment removes the housing protection provisions and the other three assure religious organizations exemptions from hiring gays and lesbians. The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on Monday, August 19, and was scheduled for the Senate floor on August 28, but was postponed at the request of Governor Wilson, who will meet on Friday, August

*See **AB101 CHANGE!** on page 2*

Dannemeyer's Sexual 'Conspiracy' Theory

by Keith Clark
OF MGW STAFF

LOS ANGELES -- America's favorite homophobe, Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-Calif.) has apparently stepped off the deep-end of the gerbil pool according to a report in the Aug. 18 issue of the Los Angeles Times.

In an exclusive interview, Dannemeyer, who is running for the U.S. Senate seat now held by John Seymour, told Times columnist Tim Rutten that he believes there is a conspiratorial "cell" of gays and their supporters within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. According to Dannemeyer the conspiracy was pursued as part of "an effort on the part of the homosexual network in America to develop some data that they can use as justification for their claim that perversion is a normal sexual practice. This is their game." According to Dannemeyer, this conspiracy is being extended by a "cell in the HHS bureaucracy."

"There is either a group of people in HHS," Dannemeyer is quoted as telling the Times, "who are homosexual in their orientation, seeking to advance that agenda, or there is a group of people in HHS who seek to advance the cause of homosexuality - not homosexuals

*See **CONSPIRACY** on page 2*

Defense Dept. Says Gays Not Security Risk

by Keith Clark
OF MGW STAFF

SAN FRANCISCO -- Hotly denying charges of censorship and suppression, the Department of Defense said Friday, Aug. 16, that it would shortly be releasing an internal research study which concludes that lesbian and gay civilian employees are no greater risk to government secrecy and security than their heterosexual counterparts.

Lt. Col. Douglas Hart announced the study, conducted by the Defense Personnel Security Research and Education Center in Monterey, Calif., would be released following a final review by Defense Secretary Richard Cheney which is now going on.

Hart said the report concludes that "homosexuality in and of itself is not a security risk." Although the report is nearly two years old, Hart strongly denied that it has been either suppressed or censored by Pentagon officials.

*See **DEFENSE DEPT.** on page 2*

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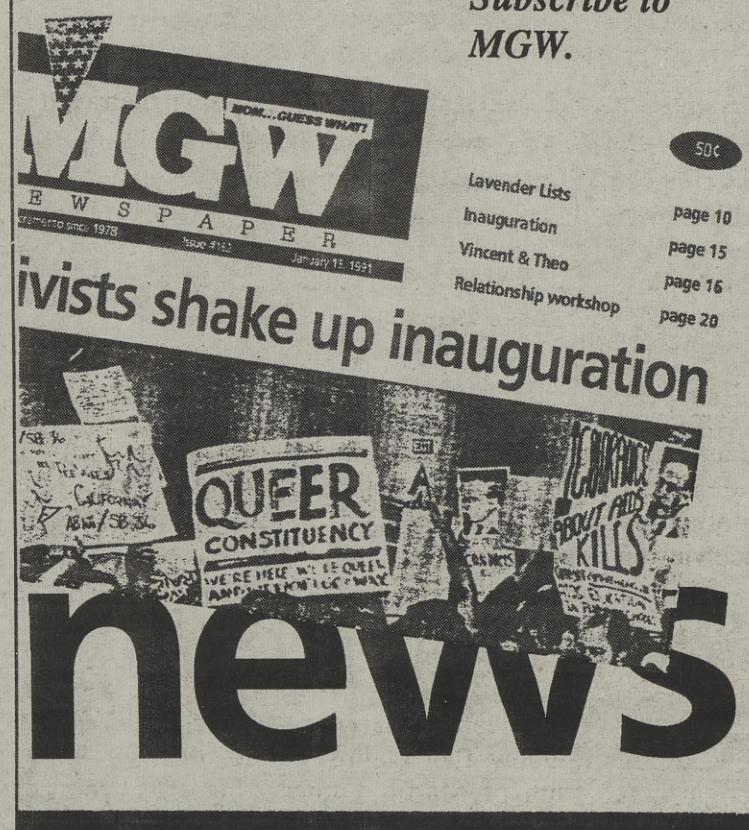

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write

THANKS FROM HOPE HOUSE

Dear Editor,

On behalf of myself, staff, and residents of Hope House, I wish to thank Dexter Smith and all the generous donors for their donations to Art Attack II.

Art Attack II is an art auction which benefits Hope House. Approximately $3,000 was raised. The art pieces which were not sold were donated to Hope House to display.

Hope House continues to serve the needs of persons with AIDS/ARC through generous donations from the community.

With Gratitude,
Rev. Ed Sherriff

NOTE ON THE PARADE

Dear Editor,

(I want to share these notes I made about SF parade)

Mon. night, 11:33: Was real hot at the parade on Sunday but it was cool 'cause we were all happy being together. Sounds corny, but we were. It was often real emotional. But there is one image I will never forget. One huge float came toward us: a huge flatbed diesel with dozens of gyrating, boogying, celebrating queers on the back! (celebrating some local bar, I guess). As it got near, I noticed a solitary figure in front of the diesel and apparently unnoticed by others. She was by herself. She walked to one side, near the gutter, on my side of the street. Middle aged, perhaps 50, she wore a suit and had grey hair and beautiful make up--conservatively tasteful. She didn't walk-- she strode, not quickly, but with purpose. She had a self-assured smile, her eyes straight ahead as she moved up Market Street in the shadow of that huge diesel, all alone. And in her arms she carried a huge tastefully hand-made sign that said in big, purple letters: "My Lesbian Daughter Is Precious." I think the word was precious, maybe something more substantial-- the word isn't important.

This is: most of the parade was people who do parades. Paradepeople. She was different. That much was obvious and the crowd finally responded in cheers as she passed. But the point is that woman made a decision, drew a board, had her hair done, dressed up and in 90 degree plus heat, picked up a sign board saying she loved her queer daughter and PARADED up Market Street in front of three hundred thousand people.

Tuesday, 7/2: At future parades, if in the craziness I lose sight of what we were doing there, our purpose, I've only to remember that woman and her daughter and her sign. Now, there was a parade!

Sincerely,
Marshall Kuehnert

DRAG QUEENS: HEROS?

Dear Editor,

Your recent commentaries on drag (I define drag as the ritualized obsession with culturally inappropriate dress) left much to be desired. Frank Cummings makes a number of highly questionable statements.

He writes, "It takes a real man to wear a dress, meaning you have to be very sure of yourself and who you are." Years of close personal experience with drag queens informs me that almost without exception they are ego deficient, attention desperate, and power hungry. It appears to me that drag queens are least sure of who they are, acting like perpetual adolescents, always playing the fool and the clown.

He writes, "Witness the Stonewall Riots: led by Drag Queens who were mad as hell and not taking it anymore. This watershed event ignited the Gay Rights Movement." The Gay Rights Movement was well underway long before the riots. It was led by culturally appropriate dressed men and women who picketed the White House, formed educational organizations, and so much more. The Gay Movement was and remains led by culturally appropriate dressed men and women. It is they who had to constantly defend drag queens in the streets, the press and courts rather than the other way round. Why the dishonest attempts to turn drag queens into heros?

He writes, "Isn't it time we move beyond simple minded categories and celebrate the diversity of our living experience?" Diversity within the bounds of reason is something to celebrate. The real issue here, however, isn't diversity. The issue is ritualistic twisting of culturally appropriate dress into an obsession or fetish. A fetish is not conductive to mental well being. The constant urge to be on stage or ritualize sex via gown or leather fantasies is unhealthy.

In the attempts of the gay movement to educate and build bridges to those who do not understand mature, healthy, romantic relationships between two people of the same gender drag queens of all stripes have done great damage to the cause. The drag queens only confirm part of the stereotypical image of gay men as child molesting, gender confused, sex obsessed, disease ridden, men who 1) wear dresses and mince or 2) through dark hypermasculinity and the wearing of dead cow skin ritualize sex into a game of submission and dominance.

Isn't it time we throw away the dresses, the leather, the drugs (especially alcohol), the anonymous sexual encounters, ritualistic fantasies and begin to build a real gay movement? A movement based on equality before the law, an open market of medical care, psychologically mature romantic relationships, and cultural integration?

Scorchy Ray Shelton

$$ MAY NOT REACH CHARITIES

Dear Editor,

Recently a letter to the community by a Mr. Geoffery Steig criticizing the expenditure of "thousands of dollars" for the production of the Duke and Duchess Ball, rather than donating the funds to charity. Mr. Steig should understand that the Duke and Duchess Ball is designed to make a profit each year and this profit contributes to the totals donated to charity, by the Court.

Unfortunately we feel that some of the positions taken by this years Board of Directors will have a negative effect on the current Duke and Duchess Ball and will make it difficult to show a profit. We had hoped that after reading our letters that the Board would reconsider their discussions and make the changes needed to promote a successful ball, thereby allowing two hard working individuals to step down with the honor and dignity that they deserve. It would appear however, from the turnout at the out-of-town show, where we saw only four Board members other than the outgoing Duke and Duchess, that the much deserved support isn't there.

With this in mind it may be that Mr. Steig does indeed have a valid point and that much needed money may not reach local charities. Since our last letter we have had overwhelming acceptance of our positions, with only two people voicing dissatisfaction. Perhaps if this is the opinion of the majority within our community a group should form at each of the bars the last Tuesday of every month and attend in mass the future Board of Directors meetings. they are open to the public and any Board member should be able to give you the location.

Sincerely,
Emperor XI & XII Chuck Thornley
Empress XI Yvette N. Alley

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▼ under the dome

AB101 Change!

from page 1

30 with Friedman in order to discuss the bill.

Asked about what seems to be a drastic weakening of the bill, McBride replied, "What people in the gay and lesbian community need to realize is that we are already protected against housing discrimination by twenty years of case law under the Unruh Act. Although it would be foolish to trust the courts' interpretation of Unruh forever, at this point in time we do have that administrative remedy through the Department of Fair Housing and Employment.

"However, we do not have any statewide employment protections. All along that has been our first priority. It is critically important for people to understand that the only way we could have left housing in the bill and not jeopardized its passage would have been to limit housing protections to multiple units. That would have rolled back rights that we currently have."

Asked if the Republicans are interested in a pared down bill in order to take back as few provisions as possible to their conservative constituents, McBride replied, "That's as good as any guess I've heard."

Supporters of AB101 fully expect the bill to come up on a statewide referendum should it pass. To include the housing provisions could risk the loss of protections now in place under Unruh, according to McBride.

Asked what will happen should AB101 not pass, one veteran supporter of the bill, who wished to remain anonymous, replied, "Riots. Riots. It will make the White Night riots (following Dan White's lenient sentence for the assassinations of San Francisco City Councilman Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone) look like a picnic in the park."▼

Conspiracy

from page 1

themselves, but [people who believe in] homosexuality as a civil right. I don't know which."

Dannemeyer named as "allies" in this conspiracy the ACLU, NOW, the National Education Association, People for the American Way, the Democratic Party and "the media." He told Rutten that "most" TV programs "subtly insinuate themes into their programming of incest, homosexuality tolerance and promotion, promiscuous sex .... It's all part of the advancement of the liberal doctrine ... that there are no fixed standards, no moral absolutes."

"There's money involved here, too," Dannemeyer said. "Homosexuals ... have above-average incomes and they don't raise children, so they don't spend their money that way. They invest their money in politics. They contribute handsomely to campaigns of people who will advance their agenda."

When Rutten asked Dannemeyer if he really believed public health officials who had advocated HHS conducting a survey on the sexual behavior of 24,000 teens were in fact pursuing some other agenda, even when they said they were gathering information relating to public health issues, Dannemeyer replied, "That is precisely what I am saying. They will claim that this survey was to be conducted to advance the health of teenagers. But, in fact, this agenda that I've described is what they're after."

Rutten, incredulous over Dannemeyer's remarks, concluded by writing, "Well, there you have it: Not just homophobia, but about as thorough a conspiracy theory as one gets. All it lacks is a spaceship and some like to Lee Harvey Oswald. Maybe that will come."▼

Defense Dept.

from page 1

The research study is based on an evaluation of more than 100 reported espionage cases in this country since 1943, and according to an unidentified source quoted in the Washington Post, found no examples in which lesbian or gay civilian defense workers had betrayed military or government secrets because of their sexual orientation.

(A similar study, reported on at the American Psychological Association convention in San Francisco Aug. 16-20, examined 40 espionage cases in the U.S. during the past 30 years or so and also found no instances of sexual orientation being used to pry out government secrets. Although two cases of gay men being involved in espionage were among the 40, researchers said both were simply matters of greed and had nothing to do with orientation.) The current report prepared for the Pentagon was completed and sent to Defense Department officials in 1989, Pentagon brass have repeatedly delayed its release, claiming it was still under review.

Pentagon policy analysts say the U.S. armed services are increasingly backing away from emphasizing that the anti-lesbian/gay military ban is based on security reasons and increasingly stressing that allowing lesbians and gays in the uniformed services would disrupt discipline and undermine morale. Psychologist Judith Stiehm of Florida International University at the APA convention, noted, "We're hearing less about security issues and more about discipline and morale as the justification [for the military's anti-gay ban]. That is, that it is more efficient and easier to accommodate prejudice than it is to eliminate or control it."

Earlier in August, following the outing of a top-level Pentagon official, Cheney distanced himself from the long-standing policy of banning lesbians and gays because of security issues saying it was a policy he had "inherited" and that it did not apply to civilian employees. But he went on to say that admitting lesbians and gays into the uniformed services was "incompatible" with the often close living conditions found in the military.▼

Invisible Diversity Business Conference Set In New York

by Keith Clark
of MGW STAFF

NEW YORK -- Bringing lesbian and gay visibility into the workplace will be a major theme of the first national conference entitled "Invisible Diversity: A Gay and Lesbian Corporate Agenda" in September with some major corporate players tackling the issue head-on for the first time together. Sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center of New York, the office of New York Mayor David Dinkins as well as corporations like the Waldorf-Astoria, AT&T, Levi-Strauss & Company, U.S. West Inc, Digital Equipment Corp., Chase Manhattan Bank. Another, and for some a surprising sponsor is the Golden, Colo.-based Coors Brewing Company, which for years was the object of a massive nationwide boycott by lesbians and gay men.

The Sept. 20 conference, to be held at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York, is aimed at corporate executives, human resource professionals, corporate and recruiting consultants, employee benefit program directors and attorneys dealing with business-employee issues.

In a prepared statement, Mayor Dinkins said, "We've learned what a valuable contribution gay men and lesbians make to the daily life and business of New York. It's time for private companies to learn this message and profit from it too. This conference is the right start."

The day-long conference is designed to look at the increasingly visible role of lesbians and gay men in the workplace, to address how some of new employee issues involving lesbians and gays affect businesses, corporate programs and policies to address anti-lesbian/gay discrimination and of-

*See **invisible** on page 4*

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▼ editorial

An Incredible Month

August was an incredible month in the arena of gay and lesbian civil rights. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, already feeling heat over the military ban against gay and lesbian soldiers, was forced by The Advocate's outing of Assistant Secretary of Defense Pete Williams to attempt to defend the hypocrisy of the Pentagon's policy. On the other coast, the U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled unanimously in the case of a lesbian chaplain that the military may not use "private bias" of other soldiers or personnel as a reason to ban gays and lesbians, but rather must demonstrate a rationale based on "permissible government purpose." That task will prove daunting given the various Pentagon studies which have recently (much to the chagrin of the Military Brass and the Commander-in-Chief) debunked most of their "rationale." It is about time Bush and Cheney admitted that the policy, which Cheney called "a bit of an old chestnut," is, quite simply, a stupid policy based on bigotry and outdated myths. It is about time the Pentagon stopped wasting public money defending the indefensible. Drop it, gentlemen, and come out with your hands clean!

* * * *

For the past decade, Sacramento has been the setting of A Tale Of Two Newspapers: The Sacramento Union and The Sacramento Bee.

In September of 1991, it is difficult to remember that The Sacramento Union, the venerable old paper that launched Mark Twain into international notariety, once ran a long and positive feature article on Mom Guess What! and its founder Linda Birner, and once included a Sacramento gay couple in a series of St. Valentine's Day profiles. The Union, in the past few years, has responded to conservative protest by moving further and further to the right politically. It has also shrunk to an anorexic shadow of its former self, becoming a graphic visual metaphor for its own narrowness.

The Sacramento Bee, on the other hand, has courageously reconfirmed its commitment to balanced journalism and fair representation. In the past week, the Bee took two controversial editorial stands, unequivocally supporting AB101 and opposing the military's ban on gays and lesbians. Sacramento is a richer place thanks to the Bee's continued voice of reason and honesty.

And The Union? Its management is robbing Sacramento of a valuable part of its heritage by burying the paper in a grave of provincialism, and under their heavy hand, it doubtless will not rise again.

* * * *

A president under house arrest in a resort town, betrayed by former friends. A popular progressive leader holed up in an office building surrounded by passionate supporters willing to lay down their bodies to stop the tanks rolling inexorably toward bloody confrontation. Old women in head scarves pleading with stoic-faced young soldiers to put down their weapons. Molatov cocktails, sticks, cars and transit buses lined up against one of the largest, most sophisticated military machines in the world. Memories of Tiananmen Square dampening hopes of success for the resistence. World leaders cramming the international phone lines. Young soldiers and seasoned veterans faced with the prospect of shooting their own people beginning to defy the authority once viewed as absolute.

Fascinating? Incredibly. Dramatic? Flamboyantly so. But what do these events in the Soviet Union have to do with American gays and lesbians?

Nothing, if we insist on being isolationist and ethnocentric. If, on the other hand, we embrace a more universalist view, as our rainbow flag claims we do, then we will recognize the truth of Martin Luther King Jr.'s words, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." It follows then that a triumph for justice anywhere is a triumph for justice everywhere. The fledgling gay rights movement in Moscow is no doubt rejoicing in the failure of the coup and the subsequent fall of the hardline right. We seekers after justice on this continent ought also to rejoice with them.▼

Michael R. Gorman

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River City MCC Turns 20

by Michael Gorman
Editor MGW

River City Metropolitan Community Church will mark its 20th anniversary this month with a weekend-long celebration. On Friday, September 6th, at 7:30 p.m., a concert and talent show in the sanctuary will kick off the commemorative party. Associate pastor and chef extraordinaire, Reverend Ed Sherriff will oversee a barbecue on Saturday September 7th from 11a.m. to 2p.m. at the social hall. During the day MCC memorabilia will be on display accompanied by an interpretive history of the church presented by Madeline Reed, administrative asst. to Rev. Freda Smith. At 6p.m. a "Twilight Buffet" will be presented in the social hall and Grand Ballroom. At 7:30p.m. in the sanctuary the community will roast Reverend Freda, followed by an awards presentation. Sunday service at 11a.m. will be followed by a get together in the sanctuary for looking ahead to the next 20 years.

River City Metropolitan Community Church has been a powerful voice for justice and equality in Sacramento, and its programs have touched thousands every year, feeding, housing, comforting, teaching, and encouraging without any of the judgementalism so common to so many mainstream churches. Religious or not most gay men and lesbians of Sacramento recognize the treasure that this church has been for the community. Anyone wishing to offer a congratulations, a donation, or a happy birthday may contact Lynn Strawbridge at 383-0940.▼

Reverend Freda Smith

INVISIBLE

Continued from page 3

fice bigotry, and how businesses can help promote more productive work environment for both gay and non-gay workers.

Brian McNaught, a consultant with AT&T's Bell Labs, said, "When gay and lesbian workers can't work safely, they can't work at optimum productivity. Eliminating homophobia from the workplace profits everyone. Educational efforts such as this a critically important first steps."

The $250 registration fee covers all conference workshops, materials as well as lunch and a cocktail reception at the Waldorf-Astoria following the conference itself.

Mayor Dinkins will open the conference with a welcoming speech. Some of the big guns that have been brought in for the conference include Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass), Elizabeth Holtzman, Comptroller of the City of New York, Virginia Apuzzo, Deputy Director of the New York State Consumer Protection Board, Tim McFeeley, executive director of HRCF, Paula Ettelbrick, legal director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, and San Francisco attorney Paul Wotman.

Business expertise at the conference will be provided by Glen Pacheco, senior associate counsel with Chase Manhattan Bank, Desma Holcomb of Levi-Strauss & Company, Kim Cromwell, diversity programs manager with Digital Equipment Corp., Kathleen Dermody of AT&T, Jeff Weinstein of "The Village Voice" Linda Villrosa, senior editor for "Essence" magazine, and John Meadows, director of community relations for Coors Brewing Co.

Registration for the conference is being handled through the tax-exempt Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center of New York, and all conference facilities are wheelchair accessible. The Center can be contacted at (212) 620-7310 for information.

Speaking of the need for conferences like this, U.W. West Inc. President and CEO Dick McCormick said, "Looking toward the next century, Pulitzer prize winner David Halberstain observed that `the advantages will be held by the society which uses its resources, natural and human, more skillfully.' To me this means extending opportunities to everyone, focusing on the values and goals we share rather than the ways we are different. I believe the companies and individuals who succeed will be those who embrace human diversity."▼

- Hope House -

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Helms, Dannemeyer Object To Project 10

by Keith Clark
OF MGW STAFF

SAN FRANCISCO -- Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) and Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-Calif.) have joined forces in sending letters to the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Education challenging the San Francisco school district's "Project 10"-type program that makes a lesbian/gay-positive counselor available part-time to kids in the public schools here. In a June 28 letter to Inspector General James Thomas Jr. of the U.S. Department of Education (DOEd), Helms demanded that Thomas "advise me as to how DOEd qualifies, for federal funding, a program for `youth confused about their sexuality' that is primarily designed to `develop and implement a plan to address the educational support needs of gay and lesbian students." According to Helms, funding for the San Francisco school counseling program comes from the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act which authorizes funds for school and community programs aimed at "high-risk youth." Citing 10 criteria of that legislation, Helms pointedly asks, "Which of these definitions, under the Act, is applicable to a youth engaging in homosexual acts? Specifically, I need to know how the Department of Education can justify granting taxpayer funds to the San Francisco school district for this `homosexual outreach' project... ."

The two letters from Helms and Dannemeyer charge that San Francisco School Superintendent Ramon Cortines "unilaterally redefines the term `high risk youth' to include students `disproportionately at risk for verbal and physical assaults' and `HIV infection'." The Helms letter also says Cortines claims lesbian and gay youth are at greater risk of suicide attempts and drug abuse because of their low self-esteem, which the school counseling program is aimed at addressing.

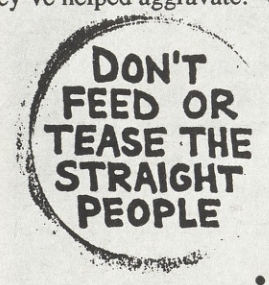
Both anti-gay congressmen question "why a project would be sustained, federal funds or not, that would provide support to sexual behavior with such disturbing and adverse effects it causes young people engaging in it to become `youth at high risk' of suicide and drug abuse."

The congressional complaints were forwarded to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Bill Honig on July 26 with a demand that the state's Department of Education document that funds from the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act "are spent only for programs and activities that deal with drug and alcohol abuse education and prevention" by Aug. 1.

Honig has forwarded the complaints to Cortines and both the City School Superintendent and the state's Dept. of Education have now provided DOEd with the documents they requested, along with supplemental materials. But lesbian/gay youth activists and educators say the Helms and Dannemeyer letters are probably only the first volley of a full-scale attack on federal funding for the City's lesbian/gay counseling program.

Tom Ammiano, the openly gay vice-president of the San Francisco School Board defended the funding for the counseling program.

"That Mr. Helms and Mr. Dannemeyer don't know that lesbian and gay kids are prime candidates for drug and alcohol abuse, are the regular victims of physical and psychological abuse, and have the highest suicide rate of all kids in the country is pathetic," he said. "That they obviously don't understand that most of the problems these kids face come from the homophobic attitudes of this society itself, speaks for itself. What's disgusting is that probably no two individuals have helped contribute more to that homophobia in this country in the past 10 years than Helms and Dannemeyer. Now they want to pretend they have no responsibility for the problems they've helped aggravate."▼



Lavender Rambo Foils Basher

by Michael R. Gorman
MGW ASSOCIATE EDITOR

We're not taking it anymore! Those were not his words, but his body language certainly expressed that message loudly and clearly.

On Saturday, August 17, a Sacramento gay man (who asked to be identified only as "Dale") was driving a local transit bus in the vicinity of Third Street and Capital Mall. Dale, whose gentle voice, diminutive stature and graceful movements make hiding his sexuality difficult, refers jokingly to himself as a "queen." As his bus approached the corner of Third and Capitol, a strongly built young man near the front of the bus jumped to his feet, approached the driver and began shouting "You're one of those faggots, aren't you?! You're a fucking faggot, aren't you..."

As the profane and threatening tirade continued, Dale pulled the bus to the curb and asked the passenger to disembark. The man refused loudly, his language profuse with profanity. As outlined in company policy, Dale radioed his dispatcher and asked that the police be sent.

The passenger overhead the call, according to Dale, and became even more enraged, finally punching Dale in the chest with his fist.

"At that point adrenaline took over," said Dale. "I grabbed his arm, spun it around behind his back and shoved him forward into the stairwell. I ended up behind him with his face and chest pinned against the front doors of the bus."

The man continued to curse, muffled now by the door, according to Dale. "Then I held up my hand, palm out," he said, "and told him that if I broke a nail I would do everything in my power to make this a felony. That made the passengers laugh. Kind of relieved the tension. I told him he could go home and tell all his macho friends he got downed by a fairy."

Twenty minutes or so later, the police arrived and arrested the assailant. Dale then strode to the front of the bus, palms on his hips, turned to face the remaining passengers, snapeped his fingers in a flamboyant gesture and said, "Next?"▼

Episcopal Congregation Goes Catholic

by Keith Clark
OF MGW STAFF

ARLINGTON, Tex. -- Criticizing the Episcopal Church national convention for its refusal to exclude lesbians and gays from the priesthood, St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church in this Dallas suburb had decided to abandon the Episcopal Church and join the Roman Catholic Church.

At its convention in Phoenix in July, the ordination of lesbian/gay priests was left largely unresolved with a compromise that ordered the creation of a commission to prepared a pastoral document on sexuality for the next general convention in 1994. Even so, local bishops would still be permitted at their own disretion, to ordain lesbians or gays as priests in the 2.4 million member denomination.

But that, The Rev. Allan Hawkins of the conservative Episcopal Church of Texas, wasn't enough.

Hawkins announced on Tuesday, Aug. 13, that the approximately 100 parishioners at St. Mary the Virgin had agreed "almost unanimously" to affiliate with the Roman Catholic Church. Approval for the switch, believed to be the first in the nation following the Phoenix convention, must also come from the Vatican itself under a policy that allows churches converting to Roman Catholicism to continue to use the Episcopal prayer book.

Hawkins said he and his parishioners "were concerned about the [Episcopal] Church's inability to affirm traditional Christian morality, particularly as it pertains to ordaining homosexual priests."

The office of Episcopal presiding Bishop Edmond Browning declined to comment on the conversion move by the Texas church.▼

League America Inaugurates National Movement

Following a year of organization, LEAGUE AMERICA (Lesbians and Gays United for Equality) inaugurated its national union of Lesbians and Gays at events marking Gay Pride and Independence Day. Founded on July 4, 1990, in Provincetown, Ma. as a national movement dedicated to achieving minority status for Lesbians and Gays, LEAGUE AMERICA has since organized into a popular social and political front to promote civil-rights and individual self-esteem.

Individuals or organizations interested in creating LEAGUE AMERICA chapters in any community are encouraged to develop a chapter organizing committee of no fewer than ten men and women.

If you have inquiries about LEAGUE AMERICA or would like the chapter enlistment materials, please write to:
LEAGUE AMERICA
9000 Sunset Blvd, Suite 700
West Hollywood, Ca. 90069
Please include the names of your organizing committee members.▼

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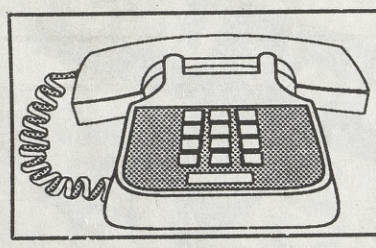

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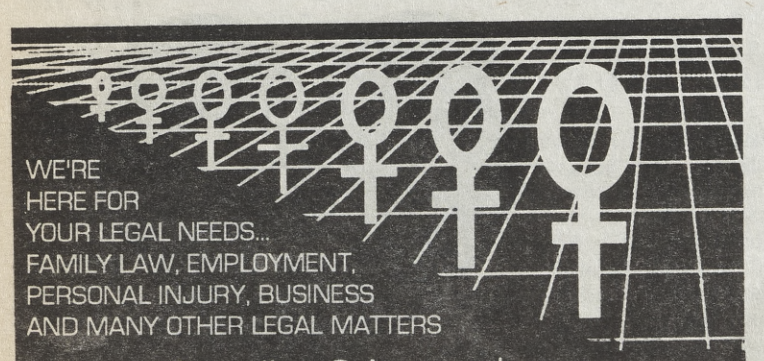

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HIV newsline

by Sonya Cox
MGW Staff

DEFINITION OF AIDS REVISED...

The Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta has finally revised its definition of AIDS to include conditions being experienced by women and intravenous drug users, as well as people with fewer than 200 T-cells who are still asymptomatic. The change takes effect this coming January 1 and will undoudtedly bring with it a drastic response from government funding agencies who struggling to meet the needs of current clients. The change would add tens of thousands of people with HIV to the ranks of those across the country who met the official criteria of the CDC when they perished to this disease. CDC statistics currently list 182,834 cases nationwide, with 115,984 deaths. Sacramento statistics list 680 cases with 455 deaths. Had the guidelines been realistic over the past several years, the official toll would be much higher. And this still doesn't include hundreds (thousands?) lost to AIDS who've been listed by their families as dying "after a long illness." The full impact of this disease on this country has yet to be seen. It's predicted that about 215,000 HIV-infected Americans will die of AIDS within the next three years -- nearly twice the CDC's official total over the entire previous ten years of the epidemic. Approximately one million Americans are now HIV positive. The average cost to treat a person with AIDS through his or her illness is listed as $85,300. About 40% of these people are eligible for MediCal, 20% have health care coverage, and the completely uninsured must be covered entirely by local heath departments and county hospitals. ▼

HIV - POSITIVE PHYSICIAN BLACKMAILED...

A 21-year-old was arrested in West Hollywood after trying to pick up $10,000 in ransom money from an HIV-positive physician. He had been working for the doctor's accountant when he found out the physician had tested positive. He first sent the physician a copy of a newspaper article about proposed legislation to punish doctors who fail to tell their patients they carry the AIDS virus, and included a note that said "I know your secret." A second letter demanded $10,000 or he would go to the media. The doctor, whose name has been withheld by the authorities, immediately called the Sheriff's Department. ▼

L.A. SURVEY SHOWS DIVERSE RESULTS...

A recent Rand Corporation survey of 300 gay men and 1,300 heterosexual adults found most were involved with a single partner; and one quarter of all responders said they'd had no sex partners the month prior to the survey. More than 50% had increased their use of condoms in response to the AIDS epidemic, and 11% said they where now celebate. Unfortunately, the survey also showed that many gay men still occasionally participate in conduct that puts them at substantial risk of acquiring or transmitting the virus. It also showed continued misunderstandings by the heterosexual community of how HIV is transmitted. Over 30% thought it "very likely" that one could get AIDS from being around a person with the virus who coughs or sneezes; 28% believe it can be transmitted by mosquitos, or by eating food prepared by a person with AIDS. Los Angeles County has the second highest number of AIDS cases in the nation -- nearly 12,000 cases, compared to Sacramento County's 680 total cases thus far. A similar survey conducted by University of California at San Francisco research team revealed that 47% of people who have used IV drugs have not been tested, and 38% of men who have engaged in high risk sex over the past five years haven't been tested and may be spreading the virus. This means, however (good news!), that about 60% at high risk have been tested and know they should protect their partners. ▼

AIDS EMERGENCY FUND...

The Barbary Coast Cloggers of San Francisco recently danced at Faces and MCC to benefit Sacramento's AIDS Emergency Fund, a project of Performing Artists for AIDS Related Charities, raising $300 for the fund. PAARC's upcoming 4th annual show --a musical drama, this year -- will be held Sept 19-21. Tickets at Lioness Books, Sacramento Community Center Box Office, and at the door. A recent auction at the Mercantile Saloon officiated by La Kish and Miss Robby raised $900 to cover production costs of putting on the show. Proceeds from this years tickets ($15 each) go to finance the emergency fund, which will open in December to people with AIDS trying to live on less than $800 per month. Call PAARC at 863-2518, X-AIDS for information. ▼

AIDS CONFERENCE OUT...

The 1992 International AIDS Conference has been canceled in Boston, and will be held in another country. The pull-out is in response to this countries refusal to take HIV off of the list of highly communicable diseases that keep foreigners from crossing our borders. Officials say "We don't feel comfortable with the policy, and can't go ahead with it in place."

OBITUARY POLICY: *MGW Newspaper is honored to commemorate the lives of readers, friends and relatives of our readers, with an announcement. We ask that friends or relatives provide us with typewritten, double-spaced information either in person or by mail, not more than 250 words.*

$100,000 Donations

by Michael Gorman
MGW ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The center for AIDS Research, Education and Services (CARES) has received two $50,000 gifts from Sutter Health and Mercy Healthcare Sacramento respectively, representing a portion of a community fundraising efforts by CARES, a not-for-profit organization.

Sutter Health and Mercy Healthcare Sacramento, along with other members of the Sacramento-Sierra Hospital Association, established CARES in 1989 to create an outpatient, early intervention model for treating HIV positive people.

Since opening in 1989, CARES has provided services to more than 500 HIV-infected persons from throughout Northern California. While the clinic serves people at all stages of infection, it was one of the first in the country to treat people with HIV before they became ill with AIDS.

For more information about CARES call 916/443-3299.▼

HIV Protest At Indian Consulate in San Francisco

by Keith Clark
OF MGW STAFF

SAN FRANCISCO -- Several dozen Asian Indians and AIDS activists staged a demonstration Tuesday, Aug. 13, outside the offices of the Indian Consulate here protesting what they described as widespread mistreatment and bias against people in India who are infected with HIV or have AIDS. Dressed in traditional Indian clothing and chanting slogans in Hindi, the protesters listed reported cases of infected Indian citizens being held in shackles by authorities, being denied medical care and similar examples of official and unofficial bias in the country.

Activists said they were also concerned about a pending piece of legislation that would give the federal Indian government broad authority to forcibly test and intern anyone suspected or believed to be infected with HIV. Consulate officials denied there were any widespread violation of the civil rights of infected Indian citizens and that the instances cited by protesters were isolated exceptions. "Those are the sorts of problems that can be found in almost every nation where HIV is a public health issue - including the United States," said Dahwan Pahabvar of the Consulate. "They are hardly unique to India."

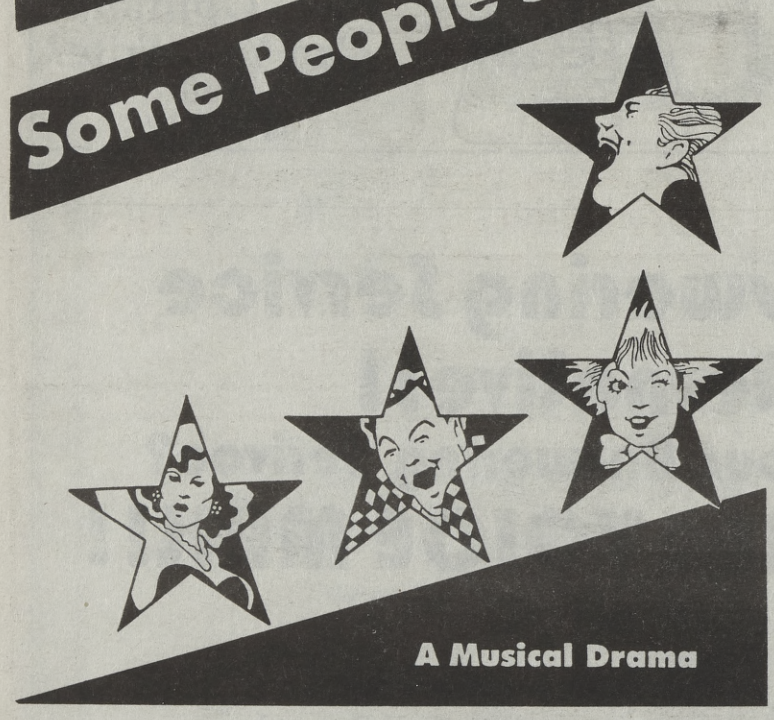
Pahabvar also said any legislation regarding HIV that the Indian Parliament might enact could be challenged in court.

Protesters said, however, they wanted to bring public attention to the problems already occurring in the country and particularly to the draconian HIV legislation now being considered before it has to be challenged in the court system.▼

Performing Artists for AIDS-Related Charities

4th Annual Show

Some People's Lives



Thurs, Sept 19: hors d'oeuvres 7 pm, performance at 8 pm
Fri, Sept 20: hors d'oeuvres 7 pm, performance at 8 pm
Sat, Sept 21: performance at 7 pm, hors d'oeuvres 8:30

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BOYCOTT LIST

These businesses do not support the gay community:

- Burger King
- Carl's Jr.
- Marlboro cigarettes (Phillip Morris)
- Sacramento Union

Visibility Sought For Friends and Family Of PWAs

Boston -- The "Living With . . ." Group, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to broadening public understanding of the scope of the AIDS epidemic, on July 24 unveiled its awareness campaign, "Someone I Love Has AIDS". The campaign centers on a provacative graphic image created by Marc Sawyer, president of the Boston-based design firm, Geneva Design.

"People don't need to be infected to be affected. Each new AIDS diagnosis produces a ripple effect of concern that touches a whole group of people. There is a wide range of understanding developing in the general population," says Mr. Sawyer. "It is the people who thought that they were insulated --that they could never be affected by AIDS and suddenly are because they know someone who's become sick -v that this campaign ultimately tries to reach. There are a lot of frightened friends and families and a lot of sad parents of people with AIDS. These people need to know that they are not alone and that their emotions are also valid."

Part of the initial phase of the campaign is a 2" square button featuring the three-color copyrighted image. "Living With . . ." is making the button available to AIDS service and educational organizations on an "at-cost" basis to assist them in their fundraising and promotional efforts. Concurrently, "Living With . . ." is actively seeking people nationwide who have positions of visiblility to wear the "Someone I Love Has AIDS" button and thereby increase the effectiveness of the campaign.

Inquiries should be directed to Tom Halley, The "Living With . . ." Group, 3094 Newbury St., Suite 251, Boston, MA, 02115-2832, Phone 617-353-0560.▼

news clips

by Denise Okamoto
NEWSCLIP EDITOR

CALIFORNIA

"QUEER SCOUTS" KISS AT BOY SCOUT HEADQUARTERS

Queer Nation staged a "kiss in" at the office of the Boy Scouts of America, protesting the organization's policy of denying gay men participation as troop leaders. About 30 activists filled out applications to volunteer as troop leaders and sang "When the queers go marching in."▼

---Washington Blade

RIVERSIDE KILLS ANTI-GAY MEASURE

The Riverside City Council voted six to one to reject an anti-gay, anti-Person With AIDS measure on November's ballot. The initiative was sponsored by the right-wing fundamentalist Christian group called Citizens for Responsible Behavior. The measure would have rescinded an ordinance protecting PWAs from discrimination and removed sexual orientation from the purview of the Human Rights Commission.▼

---B.A.R.

FUNDAMENTALISTS CLAIM OF DAMAGE DISPUTED

A member of the Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles disputes the event that led up to the filing of a $10 million damage claim against the city and the Sheriff's Department. During an "invasion" by a Christian fundamentalist group into West Hollywood gay bars, a fundamentalist got his hand broken when someone kicked a cab door closed on it. But an eyewitness from the MCC church claims that if someone did shut the door on his hand, he did not attempt to remove it, and if it was broken, he showed no signs of it being broken as he smiled and waved as they drove away.▼

---B.A.R.

AROUND THE NATION

LESBIAN KEYNOTES CONFERENCE ON SEXUAL ABUSE

As a keynote speaker, a Native American Lesbian poet, Chrystos, shared her story as a survivor of sexual abuse to a conference of over 300 survivors. The 13th Annual conference of the National Coalition Against Sexual Assault was attended by about 300 women and a few men. Some traveled as far away from Canada to attend. Conference topic workshops included violence between lesbians, homophobia, women of color, and substance abuse.▼

---Washington Blade

AIDS IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY

African-American AIDS activists are pressuring Black lawmakers in an unprecedented Congressional lobbying aimed at increasing action around the growing crisis of AIDS in the black community. Gay rights groups and minority activists converged on Washington, D.C. for the first-ever AIDS briefing to the Congressional Black Caucus. According to the Centers for Disease Control, there are over 51,000 reported AIDS cases among African-Americans in the United States, 37% of the total cases.▼

---P.R.

REGIONAL PROTEST PLANNED AGAINST ANTI-GAY RESTAURANT POLICY

Lesbian and gay groups and their supporters in the labor, religious and civil rights communities will gather in Nashville, Tenn. to protest the anti-gay policy of the Cracker Barrel restaurant/gift shops. This year the company organized a policy in which employees "whose sexual preferences fail to demonstrate normal heterosexual values" could be fired. 12 employees have been terminated due to the policy.▼

---P.R.

TASK FORCE JOINS BREAST CANCER COALITION

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has joined with the Breast Cancer Coalition, to increase awareness of and response to lesbian breast cancer and other issues related to health. The Breast Cancer Coalition advocates for health improvements in the area of breast cancer, they are comprised of cancer group, women's health and grassroots women's organizations.▼

---P.R.

GAYS, LESBIANS WIN PROTECTION IN TAMPA

In a meeting attended by more than 2500 citizens, governing councils of Tampa and surrounding counties approved amendments to the human rights ordinances, adding "sexual orientation" to the list of protected characteristics. Opposition came almost exclusively from religious fundamentalists, led by the American Family Association.▼

---P.R.

AROUND THE GLOBE

GAY COMMUNITY HELPS OUT ROMANIAN KIDS

Badly needed medical supplies are being donated by AIDS patients and by relatives or friends of deceased PWAs to Romanian orphans. Syringes, unused IV units, vitamins, bandages, and other unused medical paraphernalia are being sent via "Touch Romania," an organization which addresses the plight of the numerous orphans that are untreated and uncared for in Romanian orphanages and hospitals.

---B.A.R.

SOVIET PRIDE EVENTS

Over 450 Soviet gays and lesbians attended the country's first gay pride event in Leningrad. The week's activities included a major conference, a film festival, and distribution of condoms on Leningrad's main street. An American co-organizer described the Leningrad conference as "The Soviet Stonewall".▼

---P.R.

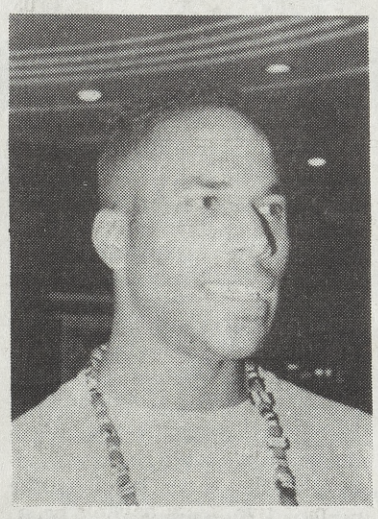
FUNDAMENTALISTS BURNED UP OVER "PARIS IS BURING"

The Christian Film and Television Commission, a right-wing fundamentalist organization that is out to "redeem the values of the entertainment industry" has instituted a boycott of Marlin Riggs' film "Paris Is Burning." On their scale of "good, caution, warning, and evil" CFATC found the film "despicably evil." The group is encouraging their readers to call the distributor in protest. Tower Theatre in Sacramento intends to circulate petitions in favor of the N.E.A.s grant for the movie. CFATC is also offering its followers a chance to call a 900 number to generate a letter to President Bush . . . for a $5 fee.▼

Q & A

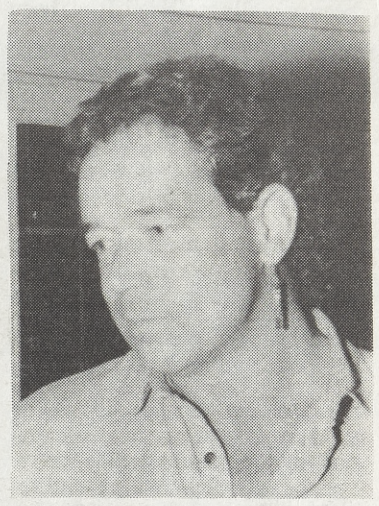
What is your impression of the GAY BALLS in New York?

(Asked at the Paris is Burning opening at the Tower theatre.)



Nathan Jones, 25, Sacramento, *"I would like to see more cultural diversity of that nature in Sacramento. That kind of exposure is necessary for the survival of gay culture."*

Jimmy Burns, 23, Stockton, *"They're neat. They're cool. Homosexuality should be open; it helps people understand."*



David Schoppe, 43, Sacramento, *"I could identify with what they are saying about being something that you want to be but you aren't. It's like the Parade, the festival, a space to be totally free to be what you feel like in your heart."*

Fifi (Gerry) Sabina, 41, Sacramento, *"I loved it! I only wish Sacramento would do something like that! It takes guts to do what we do, and I'd like more of an opportunity to do it."*

Dusty Rose (Rick Scholl), 28, Sacramento, *"They're very outgoing, very extravagant. More people need to do them. Especially in the gay community, all of the different colors of the gay flag need to pull together."*

Photos & Interviews by Pamela Coffey

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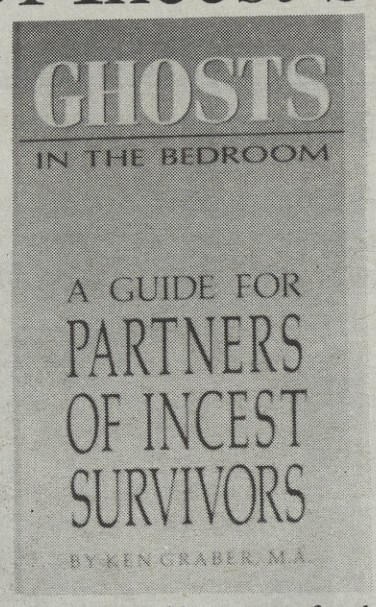
Ghosts In The Bedroom A Guide For Partners Of Incest Survivors

Painful memories are like ghosts from the past and incest survivors have more ghosts than most of us. Recent studies show that by the age of 18, one woman in three and one man in four has been sexually molested. It has been estimated that these statistics are low due to underreporting, especially for male victims. It is also known that these statistics are based on a definition of sexual mosestation that includes only the most flagrant kinds of overt sexual abuse.

The largest group of survivors are females who are in relationships with male partners and who were abused by males. However, sexual abuse survivors can be of either sex and any sexual orientation. So can their partners. Male partners may be in heterosexual relationships with female survivors or gay relationships with female survivors or gay relationships with male survivors. Female partners may be in heterosexual relationships with male survivors or lesbian relationships with female survivors.

When someone we love has been hurt, it's natural for us to feel compassion. We want to take care of them and offer comfort and support. It is also understandable when we feel anger towards our loved one's aggressor and want to retaliate. We are involved and want to be helpful, but we don't know what to do. Frequently, we may get too caught up in our loved



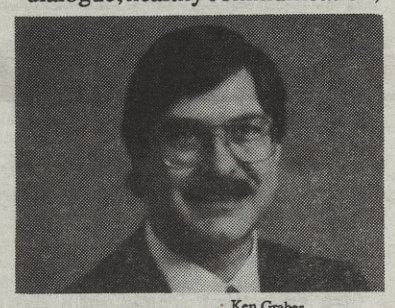
one's pain and become confused and frustrated. What can we do for ourselves?

For Ken Graber, the effects of his wife's incest experience made him feel isolated and helpless. "It's a confusing time for both partner and survivor when the survivor's memories resurface. I needed a support network so I could regain my own footing and be supportive in my wife's recovery process," he says. In GHOSTS IN THE BEDROOM: A Guide For Partners Of Incest Survivors (Health Communications, Inc., $8.95), Ken Graber addresses with sensitivity and insight the forgotten partners of incest survivors whose lives are also dramatically affected by the sexual abuse their loved ones suffered. He provides a guide for partners who are in the recovery process, and he draws from personal experience to illustrate how partners can accept responsibility for their own issues, support the recovery of their loved one, and work together toward overcoming relationship problems.

Partners of sexual abuse survivors include lovers, spouses, intimate friends, family members, or anyone who is in a relationship with a survivor and is affected by the survivor's feelings and actions. Partners often experience self-debilitating emotions similar to to the survivor's. "Partners are subject to deep denial and anger," explains Graber. "This may be perceived by the survivor as an accusation and may temporarily inhibit further recollection." When the partner's pain begins to approach the same level as the survivor's, the partner is over-identifying with and internalizing the emotion of the survivor, and this can be damaging to the relationship.

Often partners compalin about the effects of the sexual abuse experience on their sex life. Many survivors are reluctant to have sex or have no sexual desire at all. Graber says that partners need to learn not to take it personally when their loved one pulls back from them. Among the characteristics that accompany a survivor's recognition of the sexual abuse are: low self esteem, shame, sexual dysfunction, poor body image, painful body memories, flashbacks, prolonged sadness or depression, and crying spells.

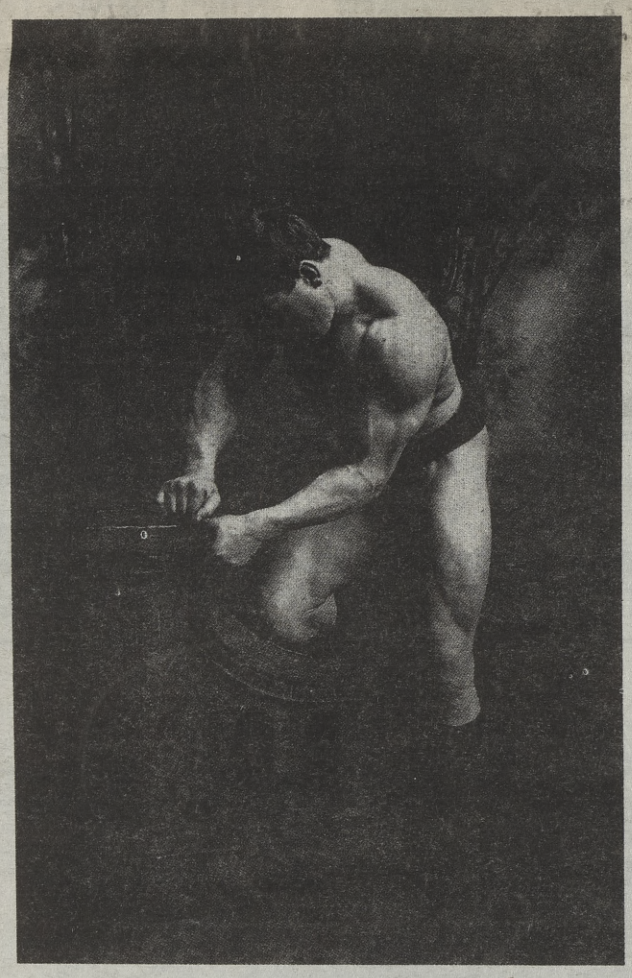
Along with compassion, understanding, and patience, Ken Graber recommeds skills such as dialogue, healthy communication,



Ken Graber

and problem solving techniques to enhance the relationship between partner and the loved one. Helpful guidelines toward building and maintaining successful relationships with a survivor of sexual abuse include giving attention to relationship issues from moment to moment, a commitment to stick with it through difficult times and the flexibility to keep trying various solutions.

"Partners of survivors can be a strong resource of support if they understand their loved one's recovery process, learn not to place blame on the survivor for the abuse, and believe and accept the reality of the experience," Ken Graber says. "It is possible for both partner and survivor to overcome the sexual abuse experience and work toward building a strong and healthy relationship."▼



1920's [HOT] Postcards

by Michael Gorman
Editor MGW

Chronicle Books of San Francisco recently published a wonderfully nostalgic collection of 31 postcards culled from a collection of 1920's postcards picturing men in wrestling, gymnastic, and bodybuilding poses. The photos are subtly (and sometimes not so subtly) erotic, obviously not intended just for sports enthusiasts. The cards are bound into a book but perforated for easy pullout and pin-up (or mailing if you want to share them). Anyone interested in the history of male erotica ought to pick up a copy.▼

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MGW MOM...GUESS WHAT!
NEWSPAPER

pull out section

flash and fun stuff

John Batchelor
OF MGW STAFF

Sacramento, with it's mild weather and wonderful people has been "on the go" both out of town and within our local community. Share your talents with us. ● The Lambda Community Center has come out fighting recently. The Center has experienced financial woes and it has orchestrated many fundraisers. September is no exception with a silent auction at the Lite Rail Gallery. Word is out that there will be a similar event in October. The monthly newsletter published by the Lambda Center has all the details. August's newsletter was both amusing and informative. However Mr. Flash wonders who writes the newsletter? There was not an author's byline anywhere! It's time to fess up. ● Also fighting for the survival of the Lambda Center and many other charities are the bars around town. Bobbette at the Mercantile donated $150 to the Center. The Mercantile was also part of the Center's fabulous food fest held in August.....The Wreck Room held a bare chest contest last month and will hold a follow up competition in September. Winners appear in the 1993 Men of Sacramento bare chest calendar. Later on the winners will battle it out to appear on the cover!.....At press time, Faces is gearing up for the annual Rainbow Festival.

All the stops have been pulled and there is no doubt that it will be the best event yet.....Joseph's Town and Country (JTC) hosts the upcoming meeting of BANG (Business Alliance of Networking Gays) on September 19. JTC's restaurant is still going strong and offers great food values.....Our Place is under new management. "Club Maximum" happens on Saturday nights with Music by Joey.....With our great weather the Buffalo Club offers a great opportunity to meet friends and enjoy the outdoors on the patio.....And the Townhouse has been quite the meeting place for some of my friends. The upstairs restaurant is working out the details on it's next benefit. The management has also been very supportive of the Lambda Center. ● Shakers on Broadway is coming of age. This restaurant and piano bar is sure to delight you. Make a point to catch William Hedge or Mike Del Monte at the piano. And if you beg Ron, he might even go up on stage and share a song....maybe. ● It's hard to keep up with Randy Hartley. When he's not selling real estate with the Coldwell Banker, He's running the Hartley House Bed and Breakfast Inn. Yes, the Inn is now open again and we all welcome it back. ● Star Trek/The Next Generation opens a new season in late September. Surprisingly enough they are adding both a Lesbian and a Gay character to the series. And while I have not caught many of the shows (gasp!), many of my friends are dizzy with delight over the news. ● An eclectic crowd showed for Dan Palomino's birthday celebration. Last month former Louella left the 20's. This child should start a novel as there are undoubtedly several volumes of experiences yet to come. ● Happy September Birthday wishes to Ty Ewing of Scratch fame and MGW reader, Mark Tullai, Anna Harrison, Frank Lawler (Linda Birner's Wife), Eugenio Neto, Alberta Lane, Anne Bersinger, Rosy Watson, Marghe Covino! And belated August wishes to Kevin Gibson, the Lavender Angels' newest rookie. ● The Lambda Players' production of Jerker was a success. Tobias Maxwell and Brian Douglas presented the play in a fun yet thoughtful way. It's message was quite shocking and meaningful. ● Until next time..... Enjoy, stand tall and take part.....John.▼

Managers of Our Place, Kathy Mammen and Sheri Roth

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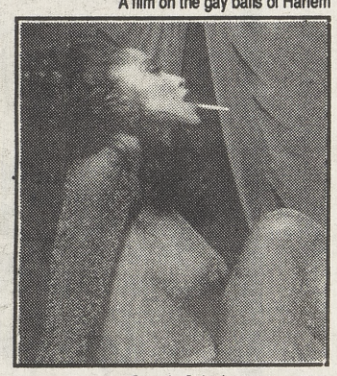

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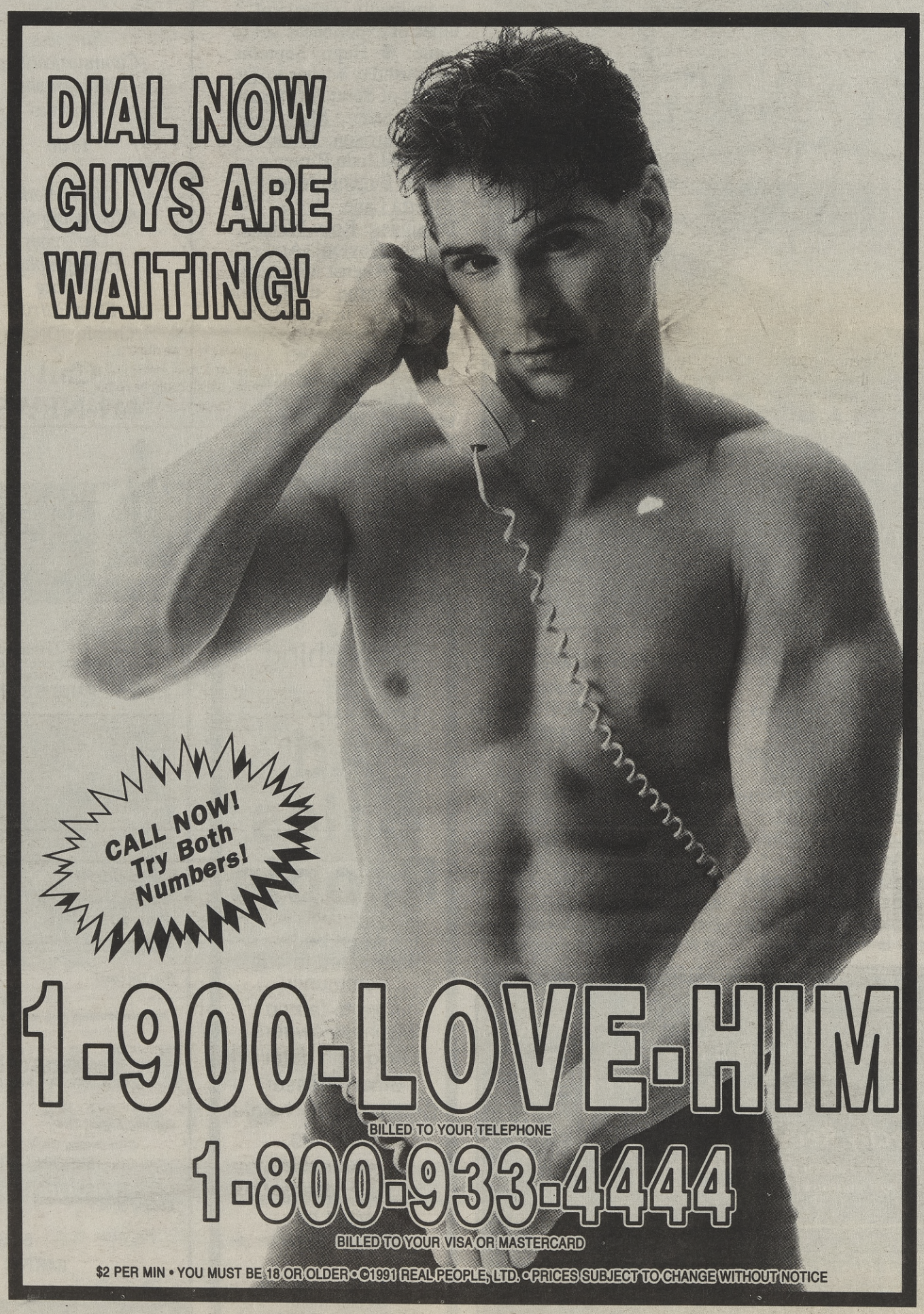
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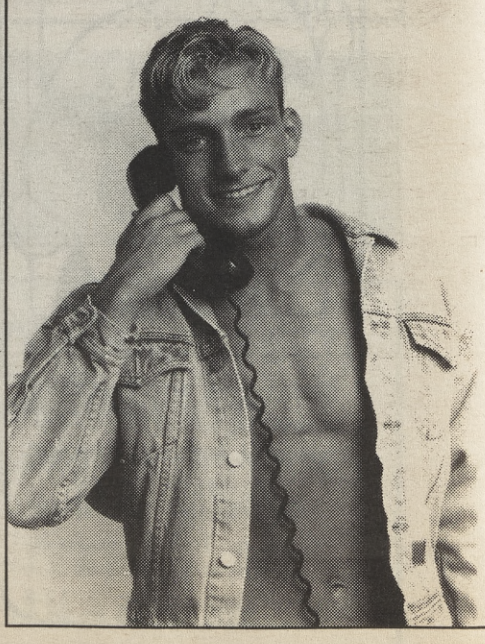

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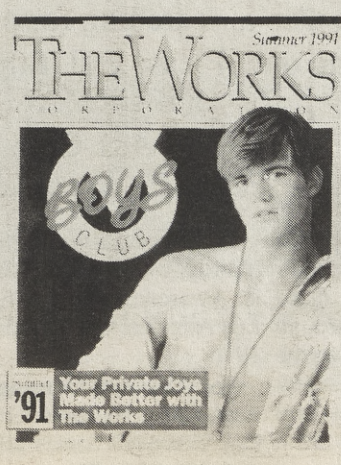

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Suggestions for Coming Out . . .

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Coming out is a process of three cumulative stages: personal, private, and public.

Personal growth work can prove very helpful in empowering ourselves to tell the truth. Once we are comfortable with who we are our fear of rejection dissipates.

Privately we begin to tell the truth about who we are to our friends and family. Most often you will find their responses come from their carying and love for you even if they don't understand. It's important to communicate to them that you are the same person they always knew and cared about except you are now revealing a more complete picture of who you are.

If their first response is negative, don't use that as a weapon against yourself or against them. The process of coming out relies on your ability to trust yourself.

Maintaining or healing our relationships with our parents almost always requires that they be told the truth. We let the fear of losing their support stop us from being with them when their support often means more than anyone else's. Remember, when we hold back telling people we are gay or lesbian, we hide other aspects of ourselves as well.

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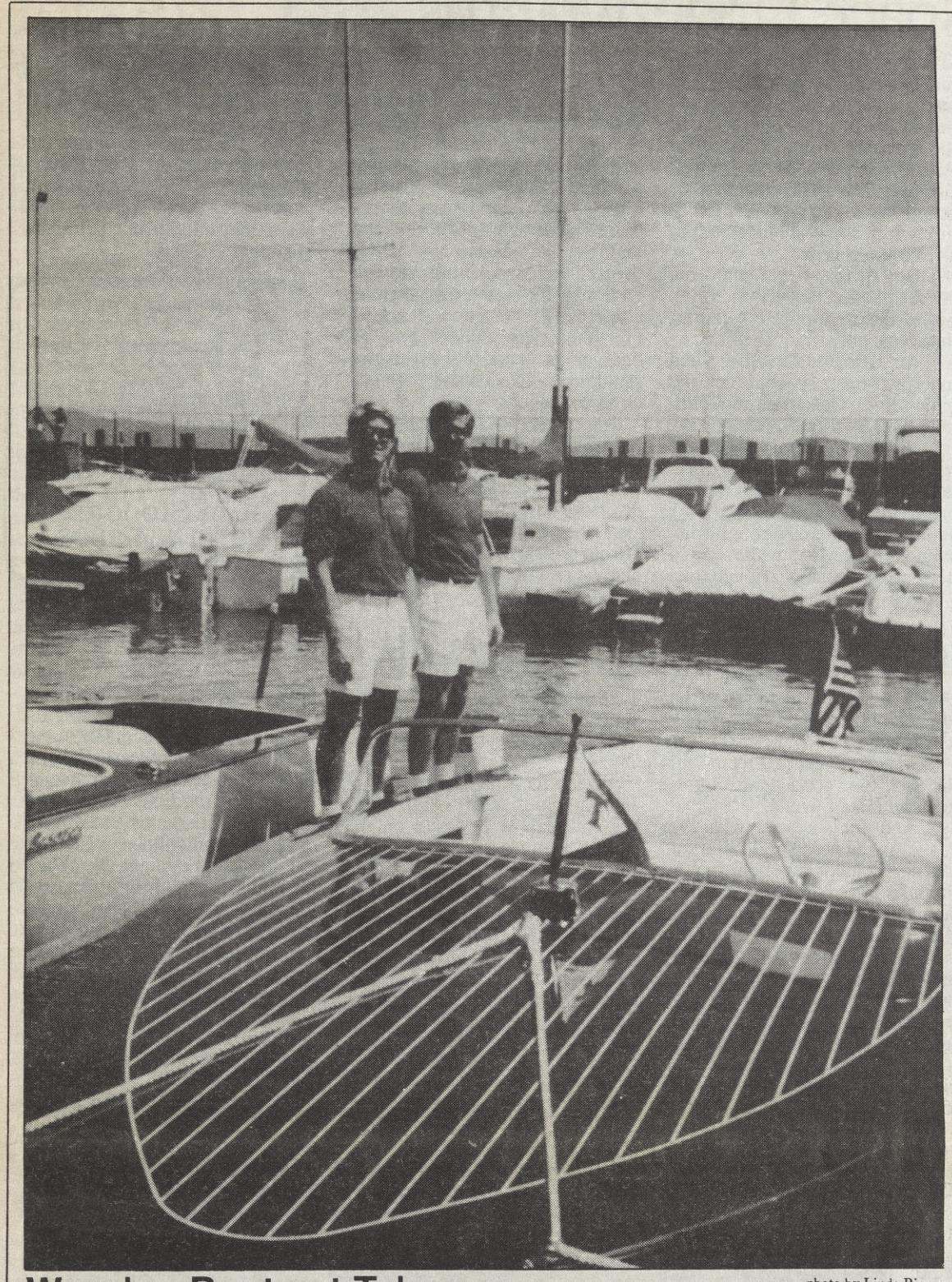
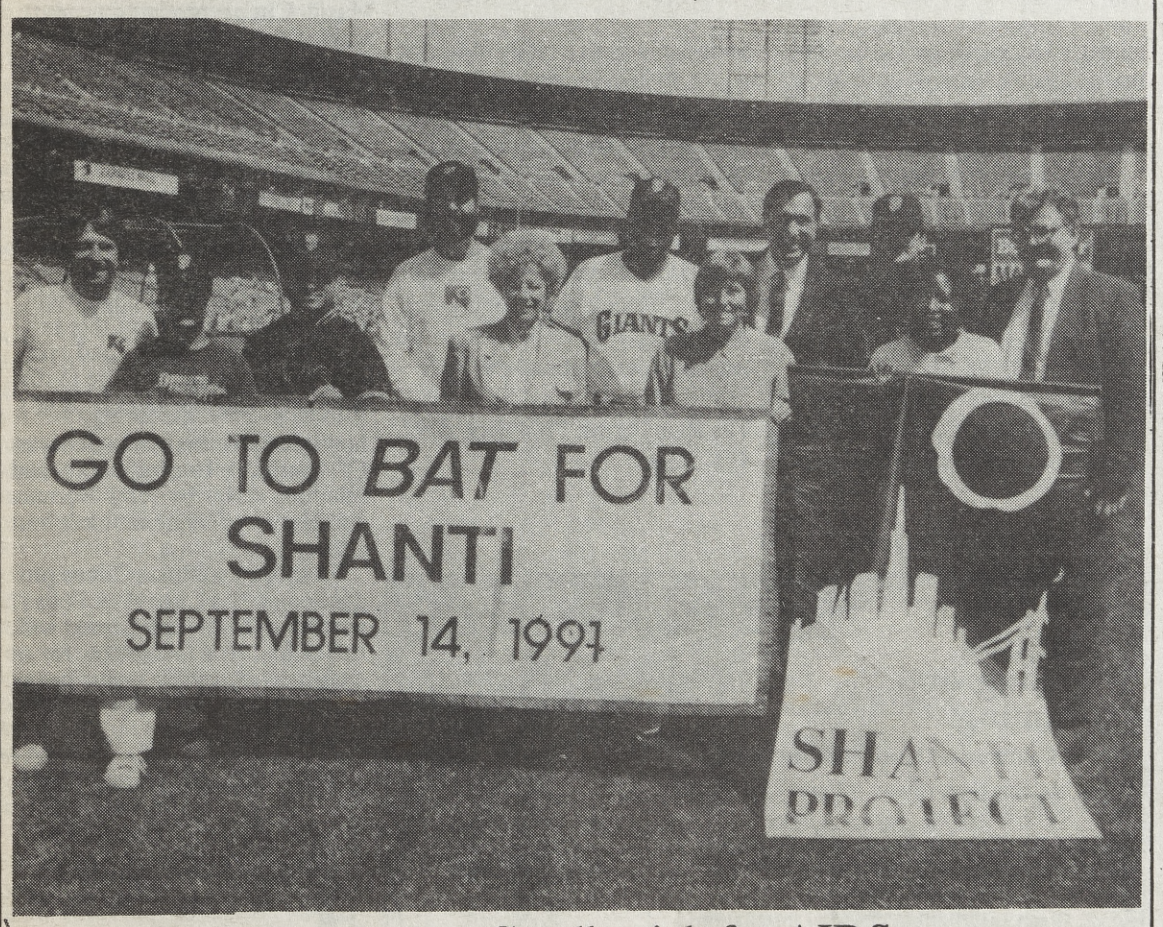


Wooden Boats at Tahoe

photo by Linda Birner

Ken Parnell and Robert Hodge, Crew Members on Dan Bests' boat, B B Too, a 1965 21' Besotes 2 Cockpit Runabout at the 19th Annual Wooden Boat Show, Concours d'Elegance in the Tahoe City Yacht Harbor.



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Drag Queens In Outer Space Underwhelms

by John Mello
OF MGW STAFF

In director Iris Landsberg's program notes it appears that Drag Queens in Outer Space has been revived as a corrective to "letters to the editor in the gay and lesbian press saying that drag queens ruin the reputation of the 'community' and other deprecating undercurrents that are easily unmasked as internalized homophobia. This reviewer has seen more cross-dressing this year in "straight" theatre, network television and the global pop culture than ever before, which leads me to believe drag is hardly in danger of going out of style either in or outside of the gay community. People who seriously believe drag is disreputable have their First Amendment right to disgrace themselves in print if they so choose; as the saying goes, "Whatever blows your skirt up."

Too bad the play at hand fell short of creating a really worthwhile piece of theatre. It had so many tantalizing, promising elements. Chief among them were the snappy performances of its three actors, headed by an outstanding Paul Anelli, aka Marlene DeLorme, aka Ann Drogynous. He was absolutely ravissant in drag or out, maintained a fever pitch of commitment in spite of the rather tepid material, and also seems to be an accomplished dancer. The other girls had a little trouble negotiating the set in heels. The set, a confection of items that have possibly come together on someone's dressing table (the closest the production came to authentic surrealism) such as Kimono condoms, Kleenex tissue, Bob Damron's Address Book '91, Diamond toothpicks, Juicy Fruit gum and a gigantic lace hanky that became the projection screen, was the work of theatrical designer Alan Greenspan of Beach Blanket Babylon fame. The costumes by Ralph Sauer naturally have to impress in a show about glamour, and they succeeded.

But all this sizzle could not conceal the fact that at the bottom, where the writing itself counts, there was not steak. There was a half-assed theory at work about inner and outer space, inner and outer selves, masculine and feminine roles, masks vs. real people, etc., but as in the 19th-century ballets, a slim plot becomes a pretext for an elaborate divertissement. There was a tacky Star Trek adolescence filtered through a dissolute Little Me posture, yet it never really went far enough over the edge into the bitchiness and controversy the opportunity afforded. Large portions were supposedly taking place in a dream, but again the opportunity for surrealism and rich dream imagery was missed. The piece could make a very evocative mime or dance-theater work with voice-overs. The dialogue had a flatness, a lack of the complex associations we have with drag through artists such as Charles Pierce and Harvey Fierstein. It was neither comic nor outrageous -- and not up to the standard of other Theatre Rhinoceros productions.

The play may have been stressing that drag queens are real people, but cross-dressing remains a magic ritual loaded with personal power no matter now much you try to unsophisticate or de-mystify it. The affront to straight society (and by that we may include members of the gay community who act straight) is not in the dismemberment of their masculine ideal of beauty and strength, but in the power, freedom and defiance that drag queens assert. Drag Queens in Outer Space is tame enough to make a Disney film. We need something a lot more challenging than that.

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'La Cage" Soars At Music Circus With Crowd

By James Fitzpatrick Jr.
OF MGW STAFF

For me, one of the great evenings in television history was the night of the Grammy Awards in 1984. It's an evening etched into my memory simply because of the absolute queerness of that show. There was Annie Lennox of Eurythmics sashaying around the stage in Elvis Presley drag. Britisher Boy George, via satellite, thanks our country on behalf of Culture Club, saying "Thank you America, you've got style, taste, and you know a good drag queen when you see one." Finally, George Hearn, in costume and character of Albin (the female impersonator lead in the Broadway production of "La Cage Aux Folles") takes the stage to perform the musical's signature song "I Am What I Am."

As whith most awards shows, there was little else memorable about this one particular evening. Except maybe for host John Denver's perplexed look throughout - a look that I imagined much of America identifying with, in light of the seemingly "Three Queer Moments in Television History" angle. But I was delighted. In a medium bent on keeping homosexuality as invisible as possible, it's not often the public is treated to three queer zingers in one evening. I ate it up.

The joyful feelings I experienced that night resurfaced this past August 17, as I sat in the audience watching the Music Circus' presentation of "La Cage Aux Folles." There I was, seated among a crowd that seemed all too typically 90% straight, watching a very queer musical. Again, I loved it. And I'm also happy to report that the "perplexed John Denver types" either stayed away, or - hopefully - loosened up and just let the rollicking, fun, good nature of the play win them over.

And that's exactly what "La Cage" is - an irresistible, hilarious musical comedy revolving around female impersonators. There's something more to it, too. For "La Cage" serves as a theatrical messenger of good will, sort of a gay ambassador, asking the audience, How can you watch this play and not feel that gays are happy, fun, good people? While it was hard for me to take my eyes off the stage, I did periodically survey the crowd. I saw row after row of men and women, teens and seniors, who were enjoying the show just as much as me. I watched one woman, who must have been in her mid-seventies, virtually roll in the aisle with laughter. As terrific as this musical is, I found the reactions of the crowd every bit as entertaining.

In case there are any of you out there unfamiliar with "La Cage" the musical, it is based on the French film (a non-musical) that made a splash in America a decade ago. A film that was itself based on a 1973 French play. The plot revolves around the aforementioned Albin, and Georges, Albin's lover of 20 years and owner of the La Cage Aux Folles nightclub where Albin is reigning queen. Their peaceful, if somewhat exotic, domesticity is suddenly shaken when Jean-Michel, 24-year old son of Georges via a one-night stand ("I wanted to know what the big deal was"), announces his engagement - to a woman. In itself, this angle lets the play poke fun at heteroxesxual views of homosexuality, as when Albin cries out, "Where did we go wrong?"

But the real problem lies in the fact that the father of Jean-Michel's fiancee is none other than the minister of the Traditional Values and Morality Party or some such, and quite the homophobe (see how silly he looks audience?). When the minister and his wife demand to meet Jean-Michel's parents, to make sure he's from a fine, upstanding family, Jean-Michel panics, asking his father to find his mother and banish Albin for the evening. Once Albin learns this, he dresses in black, sobs, pouts, screams. In short, he plays drama queen to the hilt.

Jean-Michel's mother agrees to come, but backs out at the last minute. Albin, whom it has been decided would attend the evening's gathering by playing a straight man (he simply can't do it) in the role of distant uncle, tries to save the day by appearing as jean-michel's mother. Of course, the ruse doesn't work, and the play careens towards its inevitable, and hysterically funny, conclusion.

Leads Tom Ulrich as Georges and P.J. Benjamin as Albin, reprising their roles from the 1988 Music Circus production, were nothing short of outstanding. They had their characters down pat, and truly deserved the endless adulation of the audience. Also of special note was Darrell Carey who obviously loved playing the role of Jacob, the stage-struck butler. In fact, it could be said the entire cast was having one heck of a good time. Though I personally have always been prone to stage fright, the musical numbers in this production were so lively and spirited, I had to stifle the urge to run up on stage and join the cast. That's how infectious this production was. Of course, a rousing score and hilarious script by Jerry Herman and Harvery Fierstein didn't hurt either.

In short, the Music Circus production of "La Cage Aux Folles" was full of heart, full of good will, full of fun. And that makes for an awfully nice evening under the big top.▼

▼ palate

Dining In Broadway's Twilight Zone

by John Mello
OF MGW STAFF

Broadway is as good as it gets here in Sacramento as far as having an exciting ethnic mix of restaurants and other businesses in one district. With the Wreck Room and the MCC, we are well represented among various Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Mexican, Soul Food, Vietnamese, as well as old-time Sacramento establishments. John Roberts' recent recension of the departed Sturgeon II, "The Blue Parrot," preserves a neighborhood feeling that this location has had since the 40s when its bar was the local hangout. That hardware store next-door has been there forever, as has Joe Marty's up the street. Melarkey's used to be a dive called Trio. Haven's Ice Cream is gone, as is the candy store, the five-and-dime and the used car lots. Tower Records was a vegetable market. The theater must have really stuck out in this informal working-class strip.

Sitting in the "Blue Parrot" now, sipping a manhattan, reflected in the classic movie posters, with that old familiar damp smell like Angostura bitters that bars had, one can almost get a feeling for what Broadway was like back then. Dice cups were all that was needed to complete the picture. So much of Sacramento's past has vanished that there are very few places left where one can sniff it out like this. Continuity really is a myth, and we're beginning to like it that way.

Four of us dined pleasantly here on a strangely deserted Saturday night -- perhaps that's what gave it such a Twilight Zone, spooky aspect (but then my voluptuary friend Ricardo Nieto always used to doze off to sleep here after dinner, so it may have something to do with the mood lighting). After some so-so fried appetizers like crab cakes ($5.75) and calamari ($6.25), which came in those mystifying tentacle-less slabs that Fuji does much better if you insist on eating it that way, we enjoyed an attentively prepared dinner salad (always an immediate disqualifier in my book if treated with less that total scrupulousness). The entrees were very, very nice: an enormous stuffed pork chop ($12) with a sauteed orange-ginger sauce and a bread stuffing that must have had apples as well; an ample New York Steak ($10.50) smothered in onions, garlic and mushrooms; a succulent Chicken Dijon ($10); and the special, a choice tail-cut of King Salmon ($12.50) grilled and topped with a little pesto.

We could appreciate the pains taken by chef Paul Hughes, but we found the plates to appear so stark, with a spartan tomato au gratin and a fugitive bit of rice, that we were puzzled by Roberts' being quoted as saying the Blue Parrot would serve "plain, good old eats." These lonely entrees were hardly plain in themselves, and their presentation wasn't exactly old-fashioned. Perhaps smaller post-modern plates would dispel this alienation. Or some cozy dinner music. Overall, there was something chilly about the place. Since that time, however, they have brought on a popular local bartender who calls himself "Doctor K, the Liquor God of J Street," so we'll have to go back for a second look.▼

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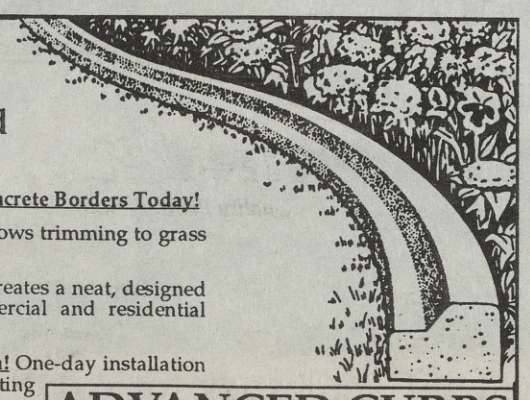

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Jerkers: This is the play Ma Bell Warned you about

By James Fitzpatrick Jr.
OF MGW STAFF

Throughout the first decade of the AIDS epidemic, there has been a tendency among some gay men to abandon sex, rather than modify their behavior in favor of new forms of safe-but-just-as-hot sexual activities. While every gay man must ultimately decide for himself what is safe, there are those who believe nothing short of abstinence will do. All too often, this is a form of internalized homophobia; a subconscious, somewhat irrational excuse to avoid same-sex intimacy. And abstinence is exactly the way the federal government, under 12 years of Reagan/Bush Republicanism, believes good gay men should behave.

In other words, the eighties were a decade in which gay men's sexual desires, long stifled in the name of society-imposed morality, were repressed internally and externally for previously unforeseen reasons. For example, gay men were urged to reduce the number of partners they slept with. Never mind that numbers alone really have little to do with the risk of contracting the HIV virus. Safe sex with 100 different men is safer than unsafe sex with one man. So what does all this have to do with "Jerkers," the latest (and seasons final) pruduction by the Lambda Players? The answer is nothing and everything. While the plot of "Jerkers" does not contain a lesson in safe sex per se, AIDS is central to the theme, as is phone sex, and undeniably safe sexual activity. The play shows that phone sex can be hot, satisfying, and can lead to intimacy as well as full-fledged relationships, even when the people involved never meet face to face. Of course, our government is not overly supportive of phone sex, particularly gay phone sex, safe though it may be. It was, in fact, a radio broadcast of portion of "Jerkers" that led the FCC to tighten regulations regarding the broadcasting of adult material. The government, and much of society, would simply like to sweep gay sexuality back into the closet, and early in the epidemic, AIDS became an excuse to encourage just that - safe sex be damned.

Despite what you may have heard, or believe up to this point, "Jerkers" is much more than a play about phone sex, safe sex and AIDS. It's a story about a relationship. It questions society's morals. And it carries a strong anti-war message, questioning society's support for war while decrying homosexuality to an hysterical degree. (Although written several years ago, using Vietnam as a plot device, this last point is especially relevant today, in the light of the recent Gulf War.) "Jerkers" will make you laugh. It'll make you cry. And most of all, "Jerkers" will make you think, which is obviously what the late playwright Robert Chesley - who himself died of AIDS in 1990 - intended. Of course, "Jerkers" was stimulating in other ways, too.

The basic premise of "Jerkers" can be described by it's lengthy, synoptic subtitle - "The Helping Hand: A Pornographic Elegy with Redeeming Social Value, and a Hymn to the Queer Men of San Francisco, in Twenty Phone Calls, Many of Them Dirty." The play opens with Bert (Brian Douglas) lying in bed, when the phone rings. The caller, whom we later come to know as JR (Tobias Maxwell), immediately manipulates the conversation into phone sex. Bert has no problem complying, but is perhaps a bit put off when JR comes all too quickly, abruptly hanging up.

We are then treated to several more phone sex sessions, with each character "jerking off" (Thus, the play's title, in the unlikely event you hadn't already guessed) in bed. This is where some people may view the play as "pornographic," as Chesley acknowledges with his toung in cheek subtitle. Indeed, these scenes are blatantly sexual, and we, the audience, are essentially reduced to voyeurs. Not exactly a comfortable position for everyone to be in. But that, of course, is one of the primary goals of this play; to celebrate blatant, hot, safe gay sex. The characters on stage are practicing safe sex via the phone wires, while members of the audience, as voyeurs, are involved in another variation of safe sex.

But the early sex scenes also serve as the foundation for the formation of a more intimate relationship. The turning point comes when JR calls on an evening when Bert is grieving for a friend who is in the hospital and not expected to live. Obviously, Bert is not in the mood for the usual "topic of conversation," so he encourages JR to call him again soon, as he truly enjoys their sessions. After hanging up, JR calls back, and asks Bert if he wants to talk about his friend. Bert does, and the two have their first real heart-to-heart conversation.

From here, the story becomes less sexual in nature, and much more of a serious drama. And throughout the remainder of the play, there remains the warmth, the sense of companionship and - yes - love that has developed between the two characters. While JR has preffered to keep the ralationship "anonymous," Bert expresses a disire to meet JR. At one point, Bert retorts to JR's comments with comic understatement, "This is getting to be more than anonymous!" JR does finally leave his phone number on Bert's answering machine, in one moving scene. But by then, it's too late.

The performances of both Maxwell and Douglas were nothing short of brilliant on opening night (August 3). At every moment, they were utterly believable in their roles. There was a definite chemistry between the two actors, something that can probably be attributed to the intimate nature of the play itself. Beyond that, the two seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves, perhaps owing to a strong empathy with the politics of the play. Regardless, a play like this must be one of the most challenging an actor can face. Besides realistically simulating phone sex and masturbation on stage, in front of a live audience, the production requires a significant amount of nudity. In one of the play's most memorable scenes, JR recites a childhood fantasy over the phone to an ailing Bert. The scene takes on a surreal turn, as JR climbs out of bed, and, while relating the story, moves slowly and dramatically around Bert's bed, before kissing him at the story's end. Maxwell, totally naked, carried the scene flawlessly.

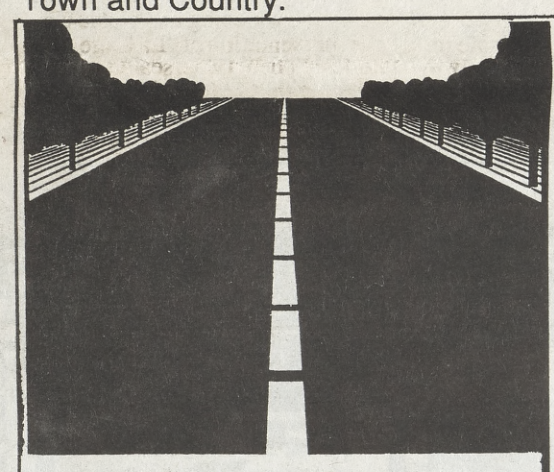
Much of the credit can also go to the able direction of Neil Treganza. Unquestionably, "Jerkers" is a difficult play to direct, and Treganza, former director of the Lambda Players, has managed to overcome numerous potential obstacles to achieve a production of truly professional quality. The play is the best testament to date of Treganza's directing ability.

All this is not to say that "Jerkers" is without flaws. There are some, to be sure. But for the most part, they lie in the script, not in the immeasurable talent of production quality of this presentation. The story itself feels a little trite at times, such as when JR, after one of the more heavy, serious conversations, signs off by calling Bert "Brother," a reference to the sexual phone fantasies they had been acting out. It's one of those "little touches" that simply tries too hard. Additionally, the script becomes a bit preachy in places. While the play succeeds in providing positive support for gay male sexuality both before and during the AIDS epidemic, it seems determined to drive the point into the ground. Part of that can be attributed to the time frame of the play, which takes place in 1985. "Jerkers" is now essentially a period piece, since so much has changed in the past six years; 1985 was the first year HIV testing became available, after all. The play is also fairly predictable. We know exactly how it will end, well before its conclusion.

But these complaints are minor. "Jerkers" is a definite must-see for anyone not offended by the subject matter, of course. The casting, the production, and for the most part, the story are first rate. Don't miss it.

"Jerkers" plays every Saturday and Sunday through September 1. Reservations are strongly recommended. Call 442-7752.▼

Lambda Players at Josephs: Mark Brown, Maureen Gaynor and Neil Treganza of the Lambda Players were among the actors who entertaind diners for Lambda Community Center on July26 at Joseph's Town and Country.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▼ growin'

Workaholism . . . Escape From Intimacy

by Sandra Warne M.A.
MGW STAFF

In my continuing quest to unearth the many compulsions we develop to escape responsibility for feeling, I cannot overlook the most socially sanctioned compulsion of all in this society: WORK. "Workaholics are not happy people," according to assistant professor of psychiatry at Cornell University Medical College and author of Work and Love: The Crucial Balance. They are using work to block out emotional disorders or to fulfill neurotic needs.

There is no typical work addict because each finds something different about work that he or she finds gratifying. Some like the aggressiveness they can display in the work environment. Others crave the security and order their work provides. Some enjoy the competitive aspects of work. There are even some who become addicted to the comforts of being in a subservient role in the workplace.

Workaholics are people who just don't know when to stop working. Some people lack an inner monitoring device for regulating the work-rest-recreation balance. Plagued by a compulsive need to work, they can deny the existence of fatigue and push themselves beyond reason.

When workaholism is habitual and shows the more severe symptoms, its victims need to be reoriented, made aware of their physical and emotional requirements so they can attend to them.

The "work ethic" is probably one of the culprits here. It's striking that in my field there are few articles dealing with problems of overwork, but by contrast a large number dealing with the inability or unwillingness to work. There even seems to be agreement about the inherent sinfulness of laziness to the extent that we sometimes overlook the "obsessive" cause of overwork.

Workaholics are commonly attempting to solve life's problems by excessive, distracting work. Overwork may represent an effort to maintain a clear conscience by saying to the world, "See, I'm blameless. I have done all that I could. I work to the edge of exhaustion. Also, work distracts from feelings just as do alcohol and drugs.

Compare compulsive working to the efficiency of a finely tuned car spinning its wheels in the snow; the need is not to burn more fuel, race the engine faster,and dig in deeper, but to let up on the gas so that normal progress can resume.

The most striking contrast between healthy hard workers and workaholics is that they know when to stop. They can spot fatigue and respond to it promptly. Most respond by quitting work early or taking time off. They enjoy vacations, spend time with loved ones, keep up with their friendships and exercise regularly. In short, they have balance.

LEISURE NEUROTICS - Another way to view workaholics is as "leisure neurotics." Some people don't like time away from the work routine. They can't adjust to having free time and using it properly. On weekends they virtually break down. In very extreme cases they may take trips, but after a day or two -- even a day or two in Europe -- they become ill. This is manifest in everything from sudden high blood pressure, chronic headaches, stomach problems, and heart arrhythmias. Leisure presents a personal freedom complete with opportunities for intimacy and feelings. It's hard for them to leave the security of their jobs' structure and routine. Work for them is a safety zone, organized and socially approved with a clear outcome.

Our work-obsessed society even organizes its leisure. We take classes and learn "leisure skills." We compete and we gain status thorough our play. Obligation is an important factor -- we make commitments out of play -- to the community band, bowling league, girl scouts, etc.

The whole meaning of leisure implies time for freedom, contemplation, and choice, not necessarily structured, purposeful time. Workaholics are usually rigid personalities and find it quite difficult to accept freedom with its implied emotional responsibilities.

It is our "addictive society" that lends credence to a rigid work ethic that implies if you are not working, then you are idle or resting up to work more. This idea perpetuates compulsions to avoid confronting your true self and finding balance and harmony in your life, thus providing the basis for true intimacy with others and prosperity internally.▼

"Protecting Our Relationships"

by Denise Okamoto
MGW STAFF

The Lesbian Legal Clinic presented a workshop at the Lambda Community Center informing lesbians of their legal rights and options in a lesbian relationship. Attorney at Law, M. Jane Pearce, led the workshop of about 25 participants.

The three main legal documents that lesbians should concern themselves with while in a committed relationship are Wills, Power of Attorney, and Property Agreements.

Wills protect the partner from losing control over property, finances, and children that are shared in the relationship, to biological relatives. Handwritten Wills are accepted in California, but are usually more challenged.

Power of Attorney identifies the decision maker and the caretaker if someone in the relationship becomes incapacitated due to illness or injury. Property Agreements clarifies who gets ownership of what when the relationship ends. This can be anything purchased together from small appliances to homes or cars.

Documents handled by professionals are better insured to stand against any future opposition. Depending on the complexity and extensiveness of the document, costs range from $75 to $3,000.

Because gay and lesbian marriages are not legal in the United States yet, gays and lesbians are not granted certain benefits that heterosexuals obtain by virtue of a marriage license. These documents, if done correctly, help to protect and clarify the gay and lesbians relationships on a material and legal level.▼

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The Perfect Pet

by Joan B. Guertin
OF MGW STAFF

Sitting at my typewriter this morning I couldn't help but reflect on what makes a perfect pet. Personally I enjoy the bursts of energy that my dogs exhibit at times and at others I would be just as happy if they all napped quietly at my feet as the pups are doing right now. The bunnies often race through the house when out for their exercise but I have to keep an eye on them or they will chomp through any electric cord in sight. Phone cords are a particular delicacy for bunny, so she is never allowed in the office. As for the dogs Chickie tends to be demanding particularly when I get on the phone. Bandit, on the other hand is always content to lie under the desk and just be close. Oliver disappears under my bed the minute he's let in... that's his cave and he enjoys his naps on these warm days. Penny Ann, on the other hand, while being wonderfully quiet (her previous owner had her debarked), after a year as a kennel dog, she tends to pace and she is not totally trustworthy in the housebreaking department. So, each in their own ways makes different demands on my time and attention.

This is a very valid consideration when thinking about adding a pet to any household. The nature of the dog is such that it does require more attention. They don't necessarily need a great deal of space, but they do need to get out for walks and spend some quality time with their owners. The dog living in the spacious back yard with plenty of running room may not be developing emotionally and may be a behavior problem because of the lack of personal attention by the master. Dogs being pack-oriented animals will bond with man as the pack leader. If there are two dogs and little human interaction, then the dogs will bond with each other.

Also, the first six months of a puppies life is a demanding period. It is like having a baby and then a child up until puberty. The time passes too swiftly, but often puts a great deal of stress on the owners as this is the time when pups need some real training.

The question to ask when thinking about a dog have to begin with the personal considerations: How much time is available out of a busy schedule on a daily basis to share with a demanding puppy? Is the physical environment such that a puppy will be welcome and you can be forgiving of accidents? The house with white carpeting or expensive oriental rugs may not be the place you will want a pup. How much patience do you have and how good is your sense of humor? Do you have the time for grooming? Can you afford a dog? If you still feel that a puppy is for you then the next consideration has to be choice of breed, size, temperament, and what's the dogs physical needs will be.

Now comes time for some very serious research. Veterinarians, Breeders, Trainers, and Behaviorists probably know more about the basic characteristics of any breed of dog than anyone else. A dog owner may know his own breed or his own dog... what he knows may not be inherently typical of that breed. There are some breeds that DO NOT make good pets. An example would be a border collie. These dogs are bred

to herd. They have a high energy level and an obsessive drive to herd and they have to be kept very busy or they become hyperactive and are often extremely nippy, a trait that works well with sheep but doesn't sit well with family members.

There are excellent books available at the public library. There are people like myself who are willing to spend time sharing our knowledge to help in the search. Randomly selecting a pup for sale out of the newspaper does not guarantee that you will connect with a knowledgeable breeder. I also recommend when the decision to go ahead with a puppy purchase is made that you remain logical. Shop around, observe a number of litters and talk to a lot of breeders. Of course, all of this may have convinced you that you would rather sit and watch budgies or finches flit around a cage (I will be doing a story later on birds). However, my resident bird expert says that despite what you may hear about birds being easy maintenance pets, they are NOT. Birds require, in their own way, just as much care.

Cats and kittens are more independent than dogs and offer a great deal of pleasure. Their antics can be amusing, but, again don't think that you get off scott free in the upkeep department. Cats do require care and long-haired cats in particular do need regular brushing in order to keep their coats from matting.

Remember too, that pets are like family members and you can't just up and go at vacation time. The beasties have to have a place to stay or you need a housesitter as I've mentioned before. Again, cost becomes a factor. If all of the above gives you reason to pause and re-think the prospect of a pet, don't feel guilty if you find that a pet isn't in your future at this time. It is always possible to get your pet fix by walking your neighbors dog or maybe filling in as a housesitter if your friends need some help. I tell folks to come visit my training class and play with some puppies to get their puppy fix. The pup goes home with someone else, but you get a few minutes of fun.

If a puppy is in your future, mark the following dates on your calendar. October 14th is the date for the Sacramento Kennel Club All Breed Fall Show at Cal Expo. This is a great time to really all breeds that may be of interest and an opportunity to get the names of breeders. Also, on Saturday, October 19th, The Sacramento Council of Dog Clubs will present a mini showcase of breeds as a part of Sunrise Mall's Annual Community Fair. The Council will be set up right in front of Pennys and will have information including some hands on experience on many different breeds of dogs. For additional information on the showcase, you can call me at 485-2201. Enjoy the Labor Day weekend and remember, if Rover goes on an outing, beware of leaving him in the car....it is still too hot and dogs cannot survive extreme temperatures. A rolled down window does no permit adequate circulation.▼

An Exotic Life - With Feathers

by Suzie Bulger
OF MGW STAFF

For Jerry Birch, raising and caring for animals has been a long-time love and hobby, and last February Birch decided to turn his hobby into a fulltime business. He retired from his job with the county and opened Oak Hollow Pet Farms which specializes in unique and exotic poultry and animals. Animals from pigmy goats and jacobs sheep, to Polish bantams and reas co-habitate on the farm.

Although the business is fairly new, Birch has been involved with animals for most of his life. In addition to his hobby, he has worked or volunteered for animal control, the Humane Society, and veterinarians. Except for the first 18 years of his life when he was not allowed to have any pets, he has never lived wihout animals.

Birch first became involved with poultry at the age of nineteen when he wandered into a country auction. He was then unaware of the different unique breeds of poultry, and upon seeing the Polish chickens, he immediately fell in love. The seven chickens he brought home that day were only to be the beginning.

Presently Oak Hollow Pet Farms has by modest estimate 500 animals, at least 25 breeds of poultry, and the largest variety in the area. Most of Birch's clients are private collectors and breeders, petting zoos, private zoos, and pet stores. He hopes to expand in the spring and add llamas, zebras and minature horses and donkeys to his collection. He is always looking for new breeds and animals, and is constantly traveling to acquire them.

When Oak Hollow Pet Farms was still only a hobby for Birch, he would receive an increasing amount of requests for his animals. As the demand grew, so did the farm. His hobby soon became so time consuming, it was time he made a decision between it and his job. In February Birch was able to do what most people only dream of; he retired from his job and became his own boss. He admits that this is not something that he plans to get rich doing, but that doesn't matter to him. "I am doing what I have always wanted to do, and would still do it without the money."

Birch truly cares about his animals. "If they're not comfortable, I'm not comfortable," he admits, and by the looks of his animals, both he and they are well at ease. He will not sell his animals to just anyone. "The animal's welfare is number one," he says. He makes sure that potential buyers know what they are doing, and usually turns down quite a few.

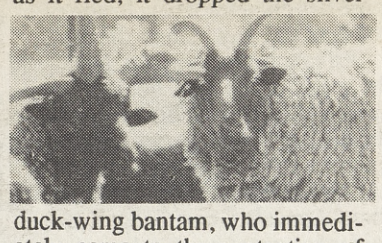
Birch usually displays his animals at many fairs around the state, but will not be participating at the

photo by Suzie Bulger

Jerry Birch with one of his 500 pets!

State Fair at Cal Expo this year. A few weeks ago his farm was broken into and the animals he had planned to show were stolen, most likely for breeding purposes. Through all the years Birch has been keeping animals, he has never before had a problem with thieves.

Most of the intruders on the farm in fact, are not human. Not long ago, while Birch was looking outside, a hawk swooped down on the farm and seized a silver duck-wing bantam in it's talons. Birch quickly grabbed a rake and went after the hawk who was now perched in a nearby tree. He managed to chase the hawk away, and as it fled, it dropped the silver



duck-wing bantam, who immediately came to the protection of Birch. Since that day the silver duck-wing bantam, now called "Bits" has become quite a pet, and closely follows gratefully at the feet of the man who saved its life. Often they will sit in the afternoon shade swatting and catching flies together.

In addition to raising and selling at his farm, Birch gives tours to different groups in the area such as 4-H Clubs, retirement homes, and youth groups. If you would like more information on Oak Hollow Pet Farms, contact Jerry Birch at 961-6627.▼

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media watch

by Ben Carlson
OF GLAAD/SFBA

GERALDO

The subject of the Tuesday, June 11 Geraldo show was "Can Gays Go Straight?". "Reformed" gays and lesbians were on the show as well as a gay man whose attempt to convert had proved unsuccessful. Geraldo asked if homosexuality was contagious, could it be cured, and were people in the audience afraid of catching it?

Ask Geraldo if he can do a show on "Can Homophobia Be Cured?" Write to Geraldo Rivera, Investigative News Group, 555 West 57th Street, Suite 1130, New York, NY 10019.

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

Here's a quick run down on some recent headlines that the San Jose Mercury News has covered after GLAAD met with the paper to discuss lack of media coverage on violence against gays and lesbians. "San Jose teen charged in gay bashing, "Parade is pride of gays in San Jose,", "Lesbian's lawsuit wins her reconsideration by the CIA," and "Vandalizing of Gay Pride ads called a "hate" crime."

We are pressing to have the paper run same-sex ceremony announcements. They are considering it.

Write to San Jose Mercury News, 750 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95190.

BOARDWATCH

BoardWatch Magazine, which covers the computer bulletin-board scene, includes lesbian and gay BBS systems. BBS also accepts gay and lesbian promotional advertising for publication. A letter from a reader, Don Humphreys, threatened a boycott if BoardWatch did not refuse any further gay and lesbian advertising. The editor and publisher Jack Rickard responded in support of the magazine's listing of gay and lesbian advertisements.

Write to BoardWatch Magazine, 5970 South Vivian St., Littleton, CO 80127.

MACNEIL/LEHRER NEWSHOUR

The June 24 edition of the PBS MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour included a report titled "Hidden Children." The reported focused on people who hide by "Passing as members of the society that wants them to disappear." Religion, race and sex were all factors that make people want to hide, but there was not mention of sexual orientation.

When we are omitted from the news, we are usually not surprised, but when we're omitted from a news report that focuses on the closet, we should be very, very insulted.

Write to Les Crystal, Executive Producer, MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour, 356 West 58th St., New York, NY 10019.

Protest defamatory coverage, and notify the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation of the San Francisco Bay Area (GLAAD/SFBA) of all defamations. Contact them at 347 Delores St., Suite 312, San Francisco, CA 94110, or call (415) 861-4588.▼

Where to write...

To let the media know how you feel (favorably or unfavorably) about the portrayal of the gay lifestyle...

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KTXL, Channel 40, 4655 Fruitridge RD., Sac. 95820

KXTV, Channel 10, 400 Broadway, Sac. 95818

KSCH, Channel 58, 3033 Gold Canal Dr., Rancho Cordova

KRBK, Channel 31, 500 Media Place, Sac. 95818

KVIE, Channel 6, Box 6, Sac.

KOVR, Channel 13, 2713 KOVR Dr. West Sac. 95605

Court Rules Against Army

by Keith Clark
OF MGW STAFF

SAN FRANCISCO -- The U.S. Court of Appeals here unanimously ruled Monday, Aug. 19, that the military's long-standing police barring lesbians and gay men must be demonstrated to be based on a "permissible government purpose" and not simply on "private biases." The ruling reinstates a 1983 lawsuit by Army Capt. Dusty Pruitt who was honorably discharged in January 1986 after she identified herself in a newspaper interview as a lesbian. The Appeals Court ruling does not affect the Pentagon's present policies that "homosexuality is incompatible with military service," but it does reject one of the reasons - that anti-gay bias is widespread in the nation - that the Department of Defense has cited for its exclusion of lesbians and gay men in the past.

"Private biases may be outside the reach of the law, but the law cannot, directly or indirectly, give them effect," the Appeals Court quoted a 1984 Supreme Court ruling on interracial marriages. The three Appeals Court judges also said subsequent court rulings had made it clear that the same standard applied to other form of discrimination as well.

In the past, the Pentagon has justified its ban by arguing that members of the armed services would be unwilling to serve with known lesbians and gay men, thereby disrupting discipline and morale and hurt recruitment efforts. It is this argument that the Appeals Court ruling directly challenges. Pruitt, who was an Army chaplain and was in the process of becoming an ordained minister with the Los Angeles Metropolitan Community Church at the time she identified herself in an interview with the Los Angeles Times. She had already notified by the Army that she had been promoted to the rank of major, but after the Times interview, that promotion was revoked. She was later discharged.

Her 1983 lawsuit, which argued that she had been improperly denied the promotion to major, was dismissed by U.S. District Court here. The Appeals Court ruling orders the District Court to reconsider the suit and require the government to justify its exclusionary policy on some basis that is "rationally related to a permissible government purpose." Civil rights advocates applauded the ruling because of its potentially extensive impact. Paula Ettelbrick of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund called it "another nail in the coffin for this policy" and said it could make it possible to end the Pentagon exclusion of lesbians and gays from the military.

No date has yet been set for rehearing the lawsuit. suit and require the government to justify its exclusionary policy on some basis that is "rationally related to a permissible government purpose."

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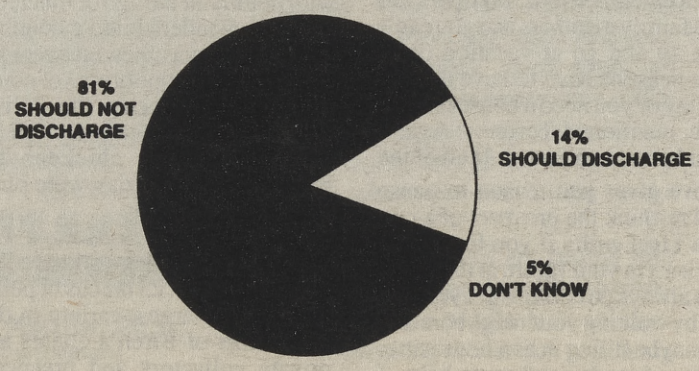

SOURCE: 1991 PENN & SCHOEN ASSOCIATES, INC.

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SEPTEMBER

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Sacramento Gay Softball League, Wreck Room v. Faces (Noon) Townhouse v. Mercantile 2pm. All games are at 21st & C. 451-5996.

39th Annuonia Festival "Flights of Fancy", Capitola Village, Capitola. (408) 476-3566.

Bobette's Famous Tacos to benefit Hope House. Mercantile Saloon 11-3pm.

6th Annual Rainbow Festival behind Faces (2000 K St.) 10am - 6pm.

Monday 2

St. Mark's United Methodist Church, AFFIRMATION, United Methodists for Lesbian and Gay Concerns, 7pm, 2391 St. Mark's Way; 489-2340.

Tuesday 3

"Environment Showcase" by Donna LaBaugh, displayed at the Light Rail Gallery, 918 12th St. 441-1013. Sept. 3-14

Gay Cable TV, Channel 18 at 10pm.

Sacramento Ballet, "Swan Lake", Box Office opens for performances from 10/16 - 10/20.Call Sacramento Community Center Theater Box Office (14th and L St.) at 442-7827, BASS at 923-BASS or the Ballet Box Office at 736-2866.

Chautauqua Playhouse presents Neil Simon's FOOLS a comedy, fairytale farce. 489-7529. 9/6-10/13.

Lady Cathay performs the last show of her campaign for Miss Gay Cowgirl at the Western 7-9pm.

SACRAMENTO ARTS, K St. Mall Heat Up!, featuring a "Prelude to Dance." Including Dale Scholl Dance Arts. From 4 p.m. to 7:30pm on the K St. Mall at the Hyatt Hotel Square.

Sacramento Ballet to hold Apprentice Company Auditions at the Eastern Star Temple (2719 K Street). (916) 736-2860.

Saturday 7

Opening Night - Sacramento Symphony's 1991-92 Season. Sacramento Community Center Theater 649-0300.

River City MCC 20th Anniversary Neighborhood Bar-B-Que 11:30 - 2:00pm. At 2pm "Family Reminiscences: with a presentation by Rev. Freda of "Dear Dora". At 6pm Buffet and Banquet in the Social Hall with an awards celebration and Pastor' Roast afterwards.

California Democratic Party's annual convention to be held at the Radisson Hotel 9/7-9/8. Lesbian/Gay Caucus meeting late Saturday afternoon. Robert Jordan 737-9541.
Sacramento Symphony's Gala Opening, Gil Shaham, violin with Carter Nice, conductor. 8pm.

Gay Softball League playoff and/or championship games begin at noon. 21st & C St. 451-5996.

Old Sacramento Citizen & Merchants Association's Eight Annual Autumn Collectors' Fair. 7am to 4pm Admission free. 443-7815.

Monday 9

Lambda Center Women's Rap & Social "Anything Goes Potluck" (bring a dish to share). 1931 L Street, 442-0185.

YWCA Empowering Women with New Fall Session 1991 Classes; 1122 17th St., 442-4741.

Tuesday 10

Gay Cable TV, Channel 18 at 10pm.

Thursday 12

Diane Davidson at the PALMS in Davis; 8pm, $8.50. 756-9901.

Gay Cable TV, Channel 18 at 9pm.

Friday 13

The Sacramento Symphony presents Sequeira Costa, piano with Carter Nice, conductor. 9/13 & 14 at 8pm and 9/15 at 3pm.

Meet U.S. Senate Candidate Barbara Boxer; 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Lite Rail Gallery, 918 - 12th St. at "J". The event will include an art auction and jazz. Katie Merrill 441-3224.

Best of Broadway's 19th Annual Musical Review. 9/13 - 9/28; Hiram Johnson Auditorium. Tickets $10-15; 482-7793.

SWEEPING THE HONORS AT THE 16TH ANNUAL GRANBY SONG FESTIVAL IN GRANBY, QUEBEC, singer/songwriter Lucie Blue Tremblay burst on the Canadian music scene amidst a flurry of acclaim. Spend a special evening with Lucie at the Crest Theater, 1013 K Street, Sacramento on Saturday, November 23 at 8PM. Tickets: $12.50 adv. (BASS/TICKETMASTER, LIONESS BOOKS), $15 at the door. Phone 916-621-1940.▼

Wednesday 4

Church of Enthusiasm and Joy, Relationship Workshop, 7pm, Co-Dependency class, 4 weeks, 7pm, 2755 Cottage Way, Ste. 11. 456-5685 or 489-7503.

Thursday 5

Rainbow Real Estate Professionals meeting at Shakers on Broadway. 11:30am Jayne 921-6642 or Jake 484-6630.

Gay Cable TV, Channel 18 at 9pm.

Friday 6

River City MCC 20th Anniversary, Music Service in the Sanctuary.

Black Mens Xchange' one year anniversary awards ceremony and dance; 6pm - 12am; Women's Civic Improvement Club 3555 3rd Ave. 487-0439; $5-10.

Sacramento Women's Center, Inc. "To Market, To Market", a half day seminar for business owners. Learn how to effectively market your business during a recession. 8:30am to noon. 2306 J St., Ste. 200. $40/person or $60 for two by 9/1. 441-8496.

Sunday 8

River City MCC 20th Anniversary, Sunday Brunch after the 11am service followed by a get together in the sanctuary.

Saturday 14

1st Annual Lesbian & Gay Day at Candlestick Park, a benefit for the Shanti Project. S.F. Giants vs. San Diego Padres. 1:05pm, Upper reserved seats, $7; 777-2273.

JTC is holding a Barn Dance with a Cowboy/Cowgirl contest. Benefits CARES, 8pm, $3 donation.

Sunday 15

Gay Softball League Championship game begins at noon at 21st & C st.; 451-5996.

LOCAS (Lation/as Organized for Cultural Awareness) and Paul and Stacey present a night of Latin Entertainment at the Mercantile Saloon. 447-0792.

Monday 16

Lambda Center Women's Rap & Social "Who Am I?" 7pm-9pm; 442-0185.

Sacramento Lesbians Creating Change (SLCC), Political Committee Meeting; 351-0582.

Tuesday 17

SLCC, General Membership Meeting; Lambda Center, downstairs; 448-3130, 7pm.

Gay Cable TV, Channel 18 at 10pm.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, Inc., Rap Session with Will Green, M.D.; St. Mark's United Methodist Church at 2391 St. Mark's Way. 665-1050; 7:30pm.

Thursday 19

BANG (Business Alliance of Networking Gays) "Does Extracurricular Schooling Help?", meeting at Joseph's Town and Country, upstairs; 457-3269, 7pm.

Gay Cable TV, Channel 18 at 9pm.

4th annual PAARC Show at the North Sac. School District Auditorium, 670 Dixieanne Ave. $15 donation, 8pm show, doors open at 7pm.

Friday 20

Sacramento Opera Association presents Giuseppe Verdi's "Otello", starring George Gray. Performed in English Supertitles. 8pm; 442-4224.

Teresa Trull at the PALMS in Davis, 8:30pm, 756-9901, $8.50.

SACWN Intimacy Workshop by Sonika Tinker M.S.W. and Debra Rain - Clarion Hotel, 486-8985.

Reno Buss Trip - Come join veterans C.A.R.E. Leaves Santa Rosa Veterans Bldg. at 6pm & returns on Sunday about 8pm. $90/person-double occupancy, $134/person single occupancy. Send checks to: Jack Harris, P.O. Box 855, Nice, CA 95464-0855.

Saturday 21

Folsom Street Fair, San Francisco.

Komedy with Karen & Karen, Karen Williams and Over Our Heads' Karen Ripley. Location TBA. Women's Cultural Productions of Chico. Lindy 345-4762.

Sunday 22

Folson Street Fair, San Francisco.

Giuseppe Verdi's "Otello", 2pm; see 9/20.

The 9th Annual Elly Awards, hosted by Dan Gray. Advance tickets are $15 for SARTA members, $17.50 for non members or $20 at the door. 925-3303.

Professional Astrologers Incorporated Fall Seminar Series. Aggie Damron presents her concepts of exploring the feminine, using the tools of astrology and the tarot. 1pm at the Michael Himovitz Gallery, 1020 Tenth St., Sac. Members $5, non-members $7. 447-0132.

Monday 23

Lambda Center Women's Rap & Social, Movie Nite, "War Widows", 7pm-9pm; 442-0185.

Tuesday 24

Gay Cable TV, Channel 18 at 10pm.

SLCC, Membership Committee Meeting; 395-1446.

Giuseppe Verdi's "Otello", 7:30pm; see 9/20.

Thursday 26

3rd Annual Lavender Waves Retreat for Lesbians in all forms of recovery. 9/26-29; (503) 563-3643.

SLCC, Communication/Newsletter Committee Meeting, 451-0288.

Gay Cable TV, Channel 18 at 9pm.

Friday 27

1991-92 Western Opera Theater tour of Verdi's La Traviata (sung in English) 25th Anniversary national Tour. 9/27-11/24.

Sacramento Symphony Chorus, Carter Nice, conductor; 9/27-29.

Saturday 28

The Sonoma Waves to Wine Bike tour, to benefit Multiple Sclerosis. 9/28 & 29; (415) 268-0572 or 800-FIGHT MS.

Sunday 29

Longtime Companion, American Playhouse, KVIE Channel 6 9pm and 12am.

THEATRE

Horizons Foundation opening night of the new production of the "Dirty Dreams of a Clean-Cut Kid" to benefit artists and arts organizations through the Horizons Foundation. 7:30pm at Jose's Cabaret and Juice Joint, Market and 16th St. in S.F., $20. (415) 398-2333.

Garbeau's Dinner Theatre presents "The Whales of August" by David Berry, Northern Cal. Premiere. 9/27-11/17, 1991. 985-7375.

The Foothill Theatre Company presents Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" 9/1 at 2pm, 9/5 at 7pm and 9/6,7 at 8:15pm. $11-12 (916) 265-8587.

The Show Below presents "Witness for the Prosecution", 9/13,14,19,20,21,22,26,27,28 & 29. 8pm Thurs., Fri., & Sat.; 2pm Sun. (Matinee only), $12, 2130 L St., 446-2787.

GALLERIES

Archival Framing - Landscape by Margaret Maye - Sept. 3-28, 1991, Reception for the artist: Sat. Sept. 7, 7-9pm. 1729 L St.

Michael Himovitz Gallery - Downtown, Kim Scott "Recent Works", Scott Runion "Metamorphosis", Jack Nielsen "Recent Sculpture" 9/4-28, 1991. Reception for the artists: Sat. 9/7, 6-8pm.

Himovitz Miller Gallery - Pavillions, Armin Muller "Porcelain Works", Royal Nebeker "Mixed Media", Sue Torngren "The Fiesty Little Terrier". 9/4-27, 1991, Reception for the artists: Thurs., 9/5, 6-8pm.

Spectrum/Himovitz Gallery - San Francisco, "Black and White in Color", Suzanne Adan "The Seven Deadly Sins" Linocuts, Julia Couzens Drawings, Lynn Criswell, Mixed Media Sculpture, Rebecca Gozion "dreem-ng Bar-lin" Charcoal drawings. 9/6-11/2, 1991. Reception: 9/19, 5:30-8:30pm. 511 Harrison St. (at First); (415) 495-1113.